

Crown Prince, Atherton discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Alfred Atherton and members of a delegation accompanying him. Mr. Atherton is currently on a visit to Jordan, as a part of a regional tour. Prince Hassan and Mr. Atherton discussed the situation in the Middle East and the Middle East peace process. The Crown Prince stressed the important role the private U.S. institutions, concerned with the Middle East, can play in advocating the justice of Arab causes and explaining the reasons behind the Arab-Israeli conflict with a view to achieving a better understanding by the American public of the causes of this conflict. The Crown Prince called for utilising Arab American academics to achieve this end. Prince Hassan also briefed the delegation on Jordan's position towards the Middle East peace process. The Crown Prince underlined the importance of putting the human element in the forefront of any future planning for the region.

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Israeli population reported at 4.8 m

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report published recently by the Israeli statistics department says that Israel's population has reached 4,821,700. Al Quds press has reported. It quoted the report as saying that of the total was made up of 3,946,700 Jews, 677,700 Muslims, 114,700 Christians and 82,600 Druze. Jerusalem's population reached 578,400, with 427,100 Jews, 136,500 Muslims and 14,700 Druze. The report said that the population of the occupied West Bank has reached 959,000 while the population of Gaza Strip has reached 642,000. Christians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip represent 2.3 per cent of the total population, there, it added.

Dumas holds talks in Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Sultan Abdul Aziz in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Monday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency, received in Cyprus, said they discussed "issues of common interest" but gave no other details. Mr. Dumas arrived earlier in the day.

Kuwait to stop aid to some Arab states

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's partially-elected national council approved a proposal on Tuesday to deny aid to Arab countries which Kuwait saw as — having supported the Iraqi invasion of the emirate, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. KUNA's report mentioned no Arab country by name. It said the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development has also made no loans to the countries which "supported" the Iraqi invasion since Aug. 2, 1990. It added that the fund has not also paid installments due to these countries for projects the fund agreed to finance before the invasion. It gave no figures and mentioned no countries.

Kuwait's emir meets leading Iraqi rebel

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, held talks on Tuesday with Iraqi Shiite opposition leader Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim, one of president Saddam Hussein's leading opponents. The official Kuwait News Agency, which reported the meeting, gave no details of their discussions. Sheikh Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), arrived in Kuwait on Monday at the invitation of the Kuwait government.

Kohl's CDU votes for Germany to quit EFA

BONN (R) — Germany's coalition government parties agreed on Tuesday that Bonn should pull out of the four-nation European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) programme and produce a low-budget warplane, later, Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said. But the meeting by the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union Parties (CDU/CSU) decided to continue with the current cooperation with Britain, Italy and Spain and possibly expand this to include other countries, Mr. Ruehe added. "The EFA is too expensive in its current form," said a statement approved by the meeting.

Egyptian police arrest 30 in hunt

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Parliamentary troops arrested 30 people on Tuesday in a village in southern Egypt in an operation against Muslim militants accused of killing Christians and policemen, security sources said. The sources said police seized weapons and anti-government leaflets during the raid on Kondat Al Islam near the town of Dayrut, a militant stronghold 350 kilometres south of Cairo. They said security forces had seized 470 unlicensed weapons, 27 hand grenades and seven rocket-propelled grenades over the past two weeks while combating Dayrut and nearby villages for militants.

Well-planned plot seen behind killing of Algerian leader

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists Tuesday cheered the assassination of Algerian leader Mohammad Boudiaf, while witness reports of a second gunman bolstered suspicions that the killing was part of a well-planned conspiracy.

Mr. Boudiaf, 73, was killed Monday in a machine-gun and grenade attack while speaking to local officials at a culture centre in Annaba, 600 kilometres east of Algiers. He will be buried Wednesday.

Forty-one other people, including Interior Minister Abdennour Karamane, were wounded by bullets or grenade shrapnel.

Algerian officials Monday blamed the killing on a gunman dressed in a riot police uniform. Early reports said he had been shot dead, but he was later said to be under arrest.

Journalists and other witnesses to the killing Tuesday reported for the first time that a second gunman was involved. According to their accounts, the uniformed assassin, a blonde man, blasted Mr. Boudiaf with two sub-machine gun bursts. The gunman was killed in a police crossfire while trying to flee.

A second man, dressed in civilian clothing, then opened fire with a sub-machine gun on a row of officials and a state television crew. He was wounded by police gunfire and captured.

The ruling High State Council indicated Monday that it suspected a conspiracy behind the attack, but stopped short of laying blame.

No political figures in either Algeria or France publicly voiced

suspicions, preferring to unify behind expressions of outrage over the killing and worry over Algeria's future.

Fundamentalists rejoiced. Graffiti appearing in Islamic strongholds read: "Boudiaf was the devil in person," "divine justice at work," and "God is great, our victory is near."

"Driven underground, their leaders jailed, extremists linked to Algeria's fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) became the natural suspects for the assassination."

The army-backed presidency headed by Mr. Boudiaf had angered secular opponents by cancelling elections and by a drive on corruption.

But the fundamentalists, in a country where weapons abound, have been blamed for killing some 70 security force members in the past five months and had promised to "take to the gun" if their top leaders were not freed.

One day before the assassination, the military prosecutor in Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, announced the adjournment of FIS leader Abassi Madani, 61, and his deputy Ali Belhadj, 35, would go ahead on July 12.

They face charges punishable by death.

Algerian newspapers on Tuesday pointed the finger primarily at the fundamentalists.

"The fundamentalists, deserve no concessions. We are heading for civil war," the pro-communist Alger Republicain newspaper quoted an aide of Mr. Boudiaf saying.

The party, outlawed on March

4, showed itself the best organised group to emerge in democratic reforms ending nearly three decades of one-party rule.

It seized control of over half the local authorities in June 1990 and trounced the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in the first round of a rescheduled general election last December.

The second round was cancelled by the new authorities. Its militants clashed with security forces throughout the country and, under a state of emergency, nearly 10,000 were rounded up, put in desert camps or taken before courts.

Mr. Boudiaf said at the time that if he had to lock up 10,000 to save Algeria he would do so. Some 3,000 have been freed from the camps, but a week before his death Mr. Boudiaf told a news conference some had resumed their opposition.

"May God guide them. I hope they will take the right path because we have received reports saying that some of the newly freed have restarted their old activities," he said.

The FIS, which vowed to put the nation's 25 million people under (Islamic Law), plunged Algeria into two bouts of violent unrest and into a year of turmoil and uncertainty.

The upheaval and roundup of militants gave ammunition to its hardliners who said an Islamic state would never be achieved through the ballot box.

Last March 4, FIS was banned by a court on the demand of the Interior Ministry. Shortly afterwards, a blueprint circulating

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Algerian head of state Mohammad Boudiaf makes a point during his last press conference, held on June 22

World decries Boudiaf murder; Islamists say attack was expected

Combined agency dispatches

THE ASSASSINATION Monday of Algerian head of state Mohammad Boudiaf drew wide condemnation from most world governments while Islamic fundamentalist movements shed no tears over the death of the man they saw as having played a key role in the crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists in Algeria.

His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to members of the Algerian High Council of State, describing the assassination of Mr. Boudiaf as an ugly crime.

The King said: "It is with deep sorrow and regret that we have learnt of the assassination of Algerian head of state Mohammad Boudiaf, who fell a martyr, as a result of the brutal attack on him..."

The King recalled the role Mr. Boudiaf played in leading the

Algerian revolution and voiced his condemnation of the killing.

The King expressed his heartfelt condolences and those of the Jordanian people and government to the members of the High Council of State over the killing.

An Iraqi newspaper said the murder of Mr. Boudiaf was a crime that would plunge the country into anarchy.

"Criminal bullets assassinate Algeria's security," declared Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, in a banner headline.

"With the assassination of Boudiaf, Algeria enters again into the tunnel of blood and violence," it said. Al Thawra said Mr. Boudiaf, killed in a hail of submachinegun fire on Monday, tried to save Algeria from the same violence that led to his assassination.

Iran denounced Mr. Boudiaf for cracking down on Muslim

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Rabin suggests continual talks with Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's next prime minister, Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin, called on Tuesday for continuous negotiations with Palestinians in a push to revamp Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Rabin who swept the left to victory over the hardline Likud government in last Tuesday's general election, said in a speech in occupied Jerusalem:

"We must move now to have a continuous negotiation. Let's sit down, not every four, five or six weeks. Let's find out if it can be achieved or not."

There have been five rounds of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington since Middle East peace talks were launched in Madrid last October. The negotiations have made little progress and the next round is to be held in Rome after Mr. Rabin forms his government.

Proposed guidelines for Mr. Rabin's cabinet urge a temporary halt to new Jewish settlements but avoid the words "settlement freeze" to placate potential coalition partners, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The careful wording is intended to allow the nationalist Tzomet Party, which opposes a

construction "freeze," to sit in a Labour-led government with the left-wing Meretz, which wants to halt settlements in the occupied territories.

The guidelines were reported as President Chaim Herzog wound up meetings with various parties on who should head Israel's next government. The meetings were mostly symbolic since Labour's election win over the Likud Party makes Mr. Rabin the likely choice.

Tzomet and Meretz are Labour's most likely partners, along with at least one religious party.

A draft of government guidelines published Tuesday in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth said that "during negotiations there will be no new settlements established."

While avoiding the word "freeze," the reported guidelines are in line with Labour's policy of curbing settlements except those near occupied Jerusalem and in the Jordan Valley that Mr. Rabin, feels are needed for Israel's "security."

Tzomet leader Rafael Eitan told army radio he would not

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Palestinians fear new U.S. demands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in the occupied territories said on Tuesday they feared the United States might try to "wring concessions out of them to push forward Middle East peace talks."

U.S. President George Bush's declaration that he was confident Washington could work with the government of Israel's next prime minister, Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, increased Palestinian alarm.

Peace negotiators and activists opposed to the U.S.-brokered talks said the moderate image projected by Mr. Rabin, who led the left to a general election rout of the hardline Likud of Yitzhak Shamir, could bounce back on them.

"I believe things will be much more difficult under Rabin," said Saeb Erekat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team. "Rabin is a true master of half offers which may look attractive to the Americans and which may mean pressure on us."

Riyad Al Malki, a leading opponent of the talks the United States wants quickly resumed now that Israel's election is over, said:

"With Rabin as prime minister, I believe the pressure will be concentrated on the Palestinian side and not on the Israeli side."

U.S-Israeli ties plunged to their

lowest level since the 1950s under Mr. Shamir. His refusal to stop settling Jews on occupied Arab land led to Washington shelving Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

Mr. Rabin crushed Likud on a platform calling for curbing what he called political Jewish settlement on the West Bank and for a speedy agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule.

The United States prodded a reluctant Shamir to begin talks with the Arabs in Madrid last October. Negotiations have been glacial at the five sessions in Washington since then.

The talks are due to resume in Rome after the new Israeli government is formed. Labour hopes to assemble its coalition by July 13.

Dr. Erekat and members of the team spent a week in Jordan charting strategy. They also engaged the Shamir government by holding an emotional public reunion with Yasser Arafat. Mr. Rabin has promised to review the law banning contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Palestinians accused Mr. Shamir of foot-dragging from the start of negotiations — he admitted last week he wanted to spin out the talks for 10 years.

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Yemen, U.N. close to deal on boat people

ADEN, Yemen (Agencies) — The Yemeni authorities, shaken by publicity about their policy towards Somali boat people, are moving towards an agreement with the United Nations to prevent a repetition of this month's tragedy on the cargo ship Gob Wein.

Between 150 and 165 passengers died fleeing Somalia in the 2,178-tonne vessel, either of hunger and thirst while waiting for permission to land in Yemen or by drowning when they tried to swim ashore, U.N. officials say.

The governor of Aden, Mahmoud Al Arasi, told reporters on Tuesday that if more boat people reached waters off Yemen, humanitarian considerations would dictate Yemeni policy towards them.

He also said he was close to agreement with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on gathering the

17,000 to 20,000 Somalis in the Aden region and moving them to a single camp with proper facilities.

The new camp would be large enough to accommodate any new arrivals from Somalia, officials said.

But Mr. Arasi declined to give a firm pledge that Yemen would automatically let in Somalis fleeing civil war. He also drew a distinction between those made their own way to Yemen and those who paid shipping companies for their berths.

"When they come we will see. The policy of the republic is well-known, it is humanitarian and I think (the central government in) Sanaa will agree," he said.

In Geneva, Prime Minister Heider Al Atlas told reporters authorities were expecting

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Hizbollah to run in Lebanese election

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Iranian-backed fundamentalist movement Hizbollah said Tuesday it will be running candidates for parliament, hoping to lead the government into taking part in guerrilla attacks against Israel in South Lebanon.

Addressing a packed news conference at Hizbollah headquarters in the south Beirut suburb of Bir Abed, the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah declared: "We have decided to take part in the forthcoming parliamentary elections."

President Elias Hrawi hopes to hold the vote within three months, although Christian hardliners are pressing for delay.

Samir Geagea, chief of the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces (LF), declared on Tuesday his group would boycott the vote if it were held too soon.

The general election will be the first since 1972 — long before

Dr. Geagea, also speaking at a news conference, appealed to parliament on Tuesday to reject a draft electoral law which would clear the way for polls this summer. He said peace would hang in the balance if the vote took place soon.

"In your hands lies a project of national division. Don't legalise it," Dr. Geagea told parliamentarians. "The march of reconciliation and peace stands today at a crossroads."

Dr. Geagea resigned from the government last month, saying Dr. Hrawi's cabinet was too pro-Syrian. The government timetable would mean the election taking place before the promised pull-back on Syrian troops to eastern Lebanon in September.

Running for the election, tentatively scheduled for July or August, would end a decade-long boycott by Hizbollah of the Lebanese government, whose overthrow it has called for repeatedly in order to create an Isla-

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Relief planes land in Sarajevo as truce holds

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Three French planes arrived Tuesday with 30 tonnes of food and medicine for besieged Sarajevo, as U.N. peacekeepers were on their way to take control of the airport.

In Croatia, a six-hour artillery barrage of the medieval port city of Dubrovnik killed four people and wounded 12 on Monday, Croatian officials said. They said the shells came from Serb positions in neighbouring Herzegovina.

About 15 tonnes of food and medical supplies were brought into central Sarajevo by U.N. trucks guarded by an armoured personnel carrier.

Fabrizio Hochschild, chief of operations for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo, estimated 30 tonnes of supplies had arrived at the airport.

They included milk products, French combat rations, blood

plasma and other medical supplies.

Three U.N. peacekeepers were shot and slightly wounded on their first day of guarding the airport.

U.N. officials said most of the small U.N. contingent at the airport were French, but they could not immediately establish the nationalities of victims.

They said a doctor was on his way to the airport and none of the wounds seemed serious, but had no further details.

More than 200 peacekeepers were on their way from central Croatia to secure the airport.

In Paris, the defence ministry announced that France will dispatch 120 soldiers to reinforce U.N. troops at the Sarajevo airport at the request of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Serb irregulars ended their three-month chokehold on

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Sanctions on Libya have little economic effect, but harm military

TRIPOLI (AP) — International sanctions imposed more than two months ago have had little economic impact in Libya, but the arms embargo has caused problems for the military.

On April 15, the U.N. Security Council ordered a ban on international flights, an arms embargo and reductions in diplomatic personnel.

The sanctions were imposed to punish Libya for refusing to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

They have caused slight increases in some prices, upset some business and travel schedules and produced general gloom, but have not really squeezed the economy because oil, the mainstay, is exported by sea.

Problems have arisen in the armed forces, however.

With the departure of about 2,000 Russian military experts soon after April 15, Libya's military has been considerably weakened, according to foreign diplomats.

Libyan arms, mostly of Soviet manufacture, are believed to be in poor condition for lack of spare parts and expertise, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

An explosion June 20 in an ammunition depot 25 kilometres from Tripoli revived charges by the government that the sanctions are killing Libyans.

The official news agency JANA gave the casualties as 12 dead and 143 injured. It said some lives were lost because the air embargo made it impossible to fly victims out of the country for advanced treatment unavailable in Libya.

JANA said several victims died en route to Malta by sea for treatment, but a spokesman for the Maltese government, Tony Parnis, said it was unaware of any injured Libyans heading for the Mediterranean island by sea.

In a report to the Libyan legislature, Health Minister Zeidan Badr Zeidan spoke of "negative repercussions" to health services because of the sanctions.

Before the sanctions, he said, more than 600 sick Libyans travelled abroad for medical treatment. As a result of the ban, he added, "a number of the ill have died" since April 15. He gave no figures.

Mr. Zeidan also complained of shortages in serum Libya used to import by air.

In Tripoli's old Bab Al Fureya market, women from Chad

and Mali sold their wares for prices higher than before.

Fatima Ali, a Libyan housewife, pointed to a bottle of hair oil from Nigeria and said: "This cost 1.25 dinars last month. Now it's two dinars."

"It's getting harder to travel now," said Jammal Bashir, a Libyan shopowner. He said banks had less foreign currency available for travellers.

For the past three years, the government has allowed Libyans to take out the equivalent of \$300 a year, or \$1,000 every other year.

Bernad Schimpf, production manager for Wintershall Oil Co., a German firm operating in Libya, said the sanctions had caused inconvenience, mainly by slowing down travel for vacationing employees.

In the long term, he said, planes taking employees to desert posts within the country might have mechanical problems due to lack of spare parts.

The sanctions resolution and another passed in January demanded that Libya turn the two Libyans over to the United States, or Britain for trial. Libya refused, saying its laws would not allow that.

Top Fateh leader slain in S. Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Gunmen assassinated the top commander of Fateh in Lebanon on Tuesday, pumping six bullets into his head and chest in a roadside ambush, security sources said.

They said Fateh Lieutenant-Colonel Anwar Madi died in hospital after his BMW car was ambushed in the southern port of Sidon by gunmen firing sub-machineguns.

The car stopped after three bodyguards were wounded. A lone gunman then approached it and fired five pistol shots at col. Madi. The Lebanese army launched a hunt for the killers.

Col. Madi, who was in his fifties, was appointed Fateh's top political and military officer in Lebanon in April.

He was the latest of several Palestinian leaders to be attacked in South Lebanon this year. Lebanese Security sources have said inter-Palestinian power struggles were behind most of the attacks but Palestinian officials have blamed Israel.

Lebanese troops routed Palestinian guerrillas in the south in July last year, forcing thousands back into refugee camps and taking over their last bases facing Israeli forces in Lebanon.

Diplomats said Palestinian guerrillas had in recent months increasingly been able to sneak out of camps near Sidon to attack Israeli forces despite Lebanese troops guarding the camps' exits and entrances.

A bomb wounded military commander Sultan Abu Al-Amin and eight of his bodyguards in April at Palestinian refugee camp near the port of Tyre. Mr. Aamin, who suffered only minor injuries, blamed "Israeli agents."

In January, the bullet-riddled body of Samir Hammouda, a radical Palestinian official, was found near 'Ain Hilweh camp east of Sidon.

Mr. Hammouda, 27, was a former official of a breakaway faction of the Fateh Revolutionary Army (FRC) but left it in April last year. The FRC, which split from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1974, is led by Abu Nidal.

At about the same time as Mr. Hammouda's killing, Hussein Sulaiman, an official in Force 17 — Fateh's security network — was hit by two bullets as he left his house in Sidon.

Last December gunmen killed fundamentalist Palestinian leader Sheikh Hisham Al Shiraideh in 'Ain Al Hilweh.

Sheikh Shiraideh led a breakaway PLO faction opposed to alcohol and men and women meeting outside their families. He was believed to be behind a string of bombings of liquor stores and cinemas, security sources said.

Kabul gets new president to try to solve old problems

KABUL (AP) — War-devastated Afghanistan got a new president in its first peaceful transfer of power in nearly a century, but he immediately faced pressure from fundamentalists who want a strict Islamic state.

Silqatallah Mojaddidi, who headed the two-month caretaker government that took over after the collapse of the former communist regime, Sunday surrendered authority as promised to a council of fellow rebel leaders.

The council immediately picked Burhamuddin Rabbani to succeed him.

Red and green tracer bullets streaked across the night sky, and tanks, mortars and grenades exploded for nearly an hour after state-run radio and television announced the first peaceful transfer of power since 1901.

Mr. Rabbani is to be president just four months under an agreement drafted by rebel chiefs to transform Afghanistan from a communist to an Islamic state.

His administration will be responsible for preparing for national elections.

But even before Mr. Rabbani took office, fundamentalists were outlining conditions for their support of him.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the renegade Hezb-e-Islami faction, threatened to withdraw his support if the new leader does not curb robberies, killings and other crimes that have become common in this city of 1.5 million.

"There is no administration, no order in Kabul," said Mr. Hekmatyar, who once threatened to destroy the capital in his own bid for power. "There's a different government on every street. Peo-

ple don't feel that their lives, property and honour are secure."

Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, leader of the Ittihad-e-Islami faction supported by underground Arab groups, said everything from the armed forces to the country's economic system should be reorganised to adhere to Islamic principles.

"We pray for the success of Professor Rabbani. We announce our support for his noble goal of establishing a pure Islamic government ... with no traces of atheism, oppression or corruption," Mr. Sayyaf said.

Although considered fundamentalist, Mr. Rabbani also is known as being pragmatic and willing to compromise.

In his farewell address, Mr. Mojaddidi accused Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Hekmatyar and Mr. Sayyaf of trying to sabotage his administration. He warned of forces trying to divide Afghanistan and prevent healing of the ethnic, ideological and religious wounds of a 14-year civil war that has left more than half of its 15 million people dead, wounded or living in exile.

"A number of elements are out to fan discord among various tribes and sects and want to stake the interests of the country on their personal gain," Mr. Mojaddidi said.

"I appeal to all citizens of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to realise the sensitivity of our time and join hands for the restoration of peace and security of our beloved country," he said.

Mr. Rabbani smiled throughout Mojaddidi's speech. Afterwards, he embraced Mr. Mojaddidi and shook his hand.

"This is a test, not a prize. I pray that God will give us strength," Mr. Rabbani said.

Israeli official opposes compensation for Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A justice ministry official urged Tuesday that the supreme court reduce state compensation to a Palestinian who lost both hands when soldiers ordered him to remove a Palestinian flag from an electrical wire.

Jihad Juma Ghanem, 25, of the West Bank town of Hebron, suffered serious burns in January 1989 when he used a metal rod to remove the flag. Both hands later were amputated.

Press reports at the time said Mr. Ghanem had been ordered by soldiers to remove the flag, which Israel has outlawed.

Mr. Ghanem, who ran a sandwich stand, sued the state for damages.

Although the court dismissed arguments that soldiers had ordered him to use the pole in

removing the flag, it awarded him 800,000 shekels (\$333,000) in damages, newspapers reported.

Pia Albeck, director of civil litigation in the attorney general's office, appealed to the supreme court to cut Mr. Ghanem's compensation.

"I wrote in the appeal that he could continue to manage a business with the artificial limbs by hiring an employee to sell the falafel and, therefore, should be compensated for the salary and not for the loss of a business," she told army radio on Tuesday.

Mr. Ghanem, who told the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth: "I can't work. How can I make falafel? I can't even grab a pita (bread) with my plastic hand."

It was not the first time Mrs. Albeck has opposed damage awards to Palestinians.

First U.N. peacekeepers due in Somalia this week

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The first of 50 military observers on a U.N. mercy mission will arrive in Somalia on July 5 and the rest about July 10, U.N. officials announced on Monday.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani said the Security Council had approved deployment of the observers to monitor a ceasefire, following approval of two warlords feuding in the Somali capital of Mogadishu.

But diplomats said there was no agreement yet to send 500 Pakistani troops to guard relief supplies destined for the country's starving people caught in a civil war that has reduced the country to anarchy.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a letter to the Security Council, said the venture, known as the U.N. Operation in Somali (UNOSOM), would be headed by Brigadier General Imtiaz Shaheen of Pakistan.

The 50 armed military observers are to include officers from Austria, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco and Zimbabwe, he said.

Mohammad Sahoun of Algeria, the special U.N. representative for Somalia, has said that as many as 5,000 Somali children under five years of age were dying every day of malnutrition and that another 4.5 million people risked starvation.

At least 150 fleeing Somali refugees died from hunger and thirst recently when a ship carrying rain gear off Yemen and at first was refused entry. About 3,700 survivors were eventually brought ashore.

Mr. Sahoun last week managed to get the approval of General Mohammed Fara Aided, one of the Somali warlords fighting for control of the capital, to send the military observers, the secretary-general said.

Gen. Aided had originally objected to the officers appearing in uniform. He has also opposed armed and uniformed U.N. soldiers to guard the relief supplies and has not yet agreed to the contingent of 500 soldiers proposed by the Security Council.

Boudiaf's last words: 'We are all going to die'

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Television showed the last moment of Head of State Mohammed Boudiaf, slain in a hail of bullets on Monday just after he told his audience, "we are all going to die."

His final words in the brief broadcast were: "We must know that the life of a human being is very short. We are all going to die. Why should the (authorities) cling so much to power?"

"Other peoples have overtaken us by technology and science. Islam ..." — his words were then interrupted by gunfire.

Moments earlier Mr. Boudiaf, in a grey suit and seated at ease, drew applause when he said Algeria must not rely on external help.

"Our good is within us and our evil is within us," he said.

He broke off at the sound of a muffled explosion from his left, looking in puzzlement from a flower-decked platform in a crowded cultural centre hall.

The camera swung from the president to show people diving beneath plush leather seats in the new hall which Mr. Boudiaf was officially inaugurating in Annaba, east Algeria.

Moments later it panned to the collapsed table in front of his now empty seat.

Plainclothes police with drawn pistols and one with a sub-

machinegun milled around. Nearby, shielded by security men, Mr. Boudiaf lay sprawled on a stretcher.

His arms hung by his side, his jacket open. For an instant his head appeared to move before the camera view was blocked.

A man seated next to Mr. Boudiaf's empty chair held his head in despair. Other people moved around in shock.

The official news agency APS reported earlier that a grenade had been thrown under the president's seat after a diversionary explosion.

Then an unidentified gunman in police uniform had moved from behind curtains at the back of the stand and emptied his gun towards Mr. Boudiaf, hitting him in the back and head.

Moments after the stretcher disappeared from view, automatic gunfire mixed with at least a dozen single shots reverberated through the hall.

Women screamed as people dived for cover. Others fled through a doorway past a toppled television camera. APS reported 41 people were wounded.

There was no sign on television of the assassin, who APS said was immediately shot dead by Mr. Boudiaf's bodyguard.

The television said later Mr. Boudiaf's body had been returned to Algiers and he would be buried in three days.

Boudiaf killing shows Islamic radicals far from beaten

By Patrick McDowell
The Associated Press

PARIS — If proven to be the work of an Islamic assassin, the killing Monday of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf would show that an extremist Muslim underground has developed into a high-powered organisation.

No one claimed responsibility for Mr. Boudiaf's slaying, but fundamentalists have the most obvious motive. They have engaged in numerous attacks on police since the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the country's most popular party, was robbed of an election victory.

Seven top front leaders, all of whom face the death penalty, went on trial last week in a military court for fomenting

armed rebellion.

The trial raised expectations of violence. If fundamentalists reached as high as Mr. Boudiaf, the slaying is bound to send shock waves through authoritative Arab governments in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere that are trying to balance demands for democracy against violent fundamentalist movements.

The Algerian military leaders, who toppled President Chadli Benjedid and cancelled the country's first free parliamentary elections, in January appointed Mr. Boudiaf as president of the five-man, military-backed High State Committee.

The Islamic Salvation Front was the projected winner of the parliamentary vote.

The army now may drop the thin pretense that civilians are

governing Algeria. Mr. Boudiaf's killing could motivate Algeria's generals to expand a state of emergency imposed Feb. 9.

Under the state of emergency, rallies and public gatherings are banned. The government has taken over all mosques, replacing activists imams with their own men. No praying is allowed on sidewalks outside the mosques — once the sites of prayer services that resembled political rallies.

Thousands of fundamentalist activists have been arrested. The president, vice president and five other officials of the now-banned FIS have been jailed for a year. Their case, on charges of fomenting and conducting armed rebellion against the state, is just coming to trial.

Several Islamic guerrillas have

been sentenced to death for deadly attacks on police.

The ruling high state committee's most powerful member, Defence Minister General Khaled Nezzar, could take Mr. Boudiaf's title and rule outright.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Gen. Nezzar was one of three generals who helped push President Benjedid from power on Jan. 11. He played a leading role in the fourth-month state of emergency Benjedid declared in June to suppress fundamentalist unrest that claimed at least 55 lives.

Mr. Boudiaf, a 73-year-old war hero, said recently that presidential elections might be held within

a year, with himself as candidate. Elections now seem highly unlikely.

Though Mr. Boudiaf pledged to eventually resume democratic reforms, his support for the military's bloody repression of fundamentalists showed he did not intend that reforms apply to the country's most popular party.

Mr. Boudiaf lacked charisma and had no personal power base. He never emerged from under the military's shadow.

The coup leaders had hoped Mr. Boudiaf would bring legitimacy to the ruling committee. Mr. Boudiaf was one of the six leaders of the eight-year war against France, but he quickly disappeared from the national scene after the country gained independence in 1962.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Liquefied gas tanker joins Libyan fleet

NICOSIA (R) — Libya's first liquefied natural gas tanker, built in Japan, joined the country's fleet on Sunday, the Libyan news agency JANA said. The 3,837-tonne tanker Al Tahadi (The Challenge) will join a fleet of 27 vessels run by Libya's General National Maritime Transport Company, it said. Libya's reserves of natural gas at the beginning of 1990 were estimated at 1.2 trillion cubic metres. JANA said the new tanker berthed at Tripoli carrying a cargo of liquefied gas from one of Libya's ports. It said the General National Maritime Transport Company would enter for the first time the field of gas transport.

Kuwait sends food to famine areas in Africa

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti-based charity said on Monday it has despatched 1,800 metric tonnes of food supplies to help famine-stricken areas in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said the African Muslims Committee had sent the food to northern Kenya to be distributed in the three countries over the coming three months through a joint programme with the World Food Programme.

Iran, Tajikistan sign cooperation agreements

NICOSIA (AP) — Tajikistan's President Rahman Nabiye and his delegation signed a series of cooperation agreements with Iran on Tuesday as they wound up their trip to the country, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. President Hashemi Rafsanjani saw off the Tajik delegation at Tehran's airport as they departed on a cultural trip to the southern Iranian city of Shiraz before flying to Pakistan later in the day. "We should all help this newly independent Muslim and Persian-speaking republic to resume its normal life," Mr. Rafsanjani said, referring to the new country's emergence from decades of communist rule. Tajikistan is the only former Soviet republic to share linguistic ties with Iran. It has been in the forefront of efforts by Tehran to boost its influence in the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. The Iranian efforts have alarmed Western countries, which fear Tehran might try to spread its anti-Western Islamic revolution to the new republics. The Iranian news agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Mr. Nabiye and his accompanying ministers signed cooperation agreements in the fields of economics, politics and culture. In remarks at the airport, Mr. Rafsanjani stressed the need to expand trade as well as ground and air links between the two countries, the agency reported. On Monday, Mr. Nabiye secured \$50 million in credits from Iran to purchase "industrial facilities" from Tehran, state-run television reported.

Egyptian students stage midnight exam protests

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of Egyptian high school students besieged examination centres after midnight on Monday, protesting that the annual state algebra examination was too hard. Newspapers said girls fainting in hysterical crowds and hundreds of angry readers phoned in to complain that their children's lives were being ruined because of exam questions which even a genius could not answer. Some students, egged on by their parents, tried to climb the gates of a branch of the ruling National Democratic Party at 1.00 a.m. to demand a rerun of the examination, part of a set which students must pass to qualify for higher education. Education Minister Hussein Bahaeddin promised after a crisis meeting with officials to rewrite the answers, giving more points to the easier questions.

UAE pledges support for Eritrea

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) pledged Monday to assist Eritrea's provisional government in the reconstruction of the war-damaged African country. The pledge of support was made at a meeting between Asfah Aforki, the visiting leader of the Eritrean provisional government, and Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed, deputy prime minister and son of President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. Mr. Aforki, who started a three-day visit to the country on Saturday, said the UAE was "the only country that stood by the Eritrean people during its long struggle for freedom from the Ethiopian occupation." At a meeting with the Eritrean community in the country, Mr. Aforki said about 250,000 Eritrean refugees were beginning to return to their homeland from neighbouring countries, particularly Sudan. "Today we are facing a reconstruction battle which is no less than the battle for the country's liberation," he said, urging his community to extend help for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Eritrea. Diplomats here said Mr. Aforki's visit was aimed at generating financial support from the oil-rich Gulf, particularly from the UAE, for the reconstruction of the war-damaged economy. The Eritrean struggle for freedom from Ethiopia was one of the longest on the African continent, and involved bitter rivalry among the various rival factions, who still remain divided.

Accidental bomb drop kills 2 in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish military plane accidentally dropped a bomb on a village killing two people and injuring 10 others on Monday, a senior security official said. "It was an accident. No Turkish plane would intentionally bomb a Turkish village," said the official in the regional capital of Diyarbakir. The semi-official Anatolia news agency said the bomb killed a 20-year-old woman and a seven-year-old girl in Ormanlik on a high plateau in southeastern Hakkari province. Turkish planes fly frequent reconnaissance missions seeking guerrilla camps of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Bomb targets Israeli allies in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — A bomb exploded near a militia patrol on Tuesday in Israel-controlled South Lebanon, security sources said. The roadside bomb blew up as militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) passed near the village of Dier Siriane, six kilometres northwest of the border with Israel. The sources said there were believed to be no casualties. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Interpochique
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:30 Wednesday forum
22:00 News in English
22:30 The We Meet Again

PRAYER TIMES

06:52 Fajr
07:27 (Sunrise) Duha
12:58 Dhuhur
16:19 Asr
19:30 Maghreb
21:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Assam Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Antonian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Assam Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654832
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

It will continue to be fair and some clouds will appear at low altitudes. Winds will be northerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Assam Min/Max temp.
Agaba 22/26
Deserts 15/30
Jordan Valley 21/34

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Issa 691011
Dr. Joseph Imth 70560
Dr. Rami Mizzawi 694788
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 646070
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Assasa pharmacy 671055
Neinoud pharmacy 62672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Amis Abu Elida (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (773225)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence immediate 630341
Rescue 637177
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 637177
Blood Bank 77321
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 686390
Public Security Department 630021
Hotel Complaints 658980
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 691467
Complaints 691467
Assam Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Assam Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Rasheed Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadij Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Jahel Maternity, J. Amn. 624412
Jabal Assam Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amn. 635140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Samarat Hospital 685123
University Hospital 642843
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672719
Hotel Complaints 6652727
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Jabal, Al-Musabir 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751125
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital 60224050
Assam Hospital 6999999
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09905560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital 09999999
IBRD:
Prince Basmal Hospital 02225555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272275
The Al Nahla Hospital 02247100
AQAMA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03141111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Symposium on health, environmental threats in Jordan and in world ends

SALT (Petra) — A one-day symposium on health and the environment on Tuesday discussed environmental problems facing Balqa governorate and promoted health awareness.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP), with German Friedrich Naumann Corporation and Salt Development Corporation, discussed four papers by academics from the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

Addressing the symposium, JSCEP Vice President Mohammad Masalha said the meeting aimed at promoting environmental awareness and the role the community can play in preserving environment.

Representative of the Naumann Corporation, Walter Rhodel, reaffirmed the close relationship between nature and man, saying that such a relationship is directly influenced by the balance between chemical and biological elements. He warned of the dangers facing the planet from natural resource exploitation and economic growth.

He added that the environmental crisis is man-made and stressed the importance of scientific research.

Head of environmental control at the Health Ministry, Hussein Al Khandaq, spoke about the effects of environmental pollution, saying that such threats have no political or geological borders. He cited the depletion of the ozone layer, global warming and polluted water resources as examples of the universality of the danger.

Director of Balqa Health Department Samir Al Awamleh presented a paper on environmental pollution and a study on the

water in the governorate. Dr. Awamleh called for linking all houses in the city to a water network and stressed the need for establishing water purification plants in the governorate.

Dr. Qusay Mahasneh, from the University of Jordan Faculty of Medicine presented a paper on the effects of pharmaceutical industries and hospital waste on environment. He said burying such waste was important and that plants to purify liquid waste from hospitals were needed.

Randa Khatib, from the RSS building research centre, presented a paper on environmental planning of Salt. She said Salt suffered from planning and construction problems.

One hundred people from the health sector, municipalities, and official departments and various pharmaceutical companies attended the symposium.

JDTC handicraft exhibit focuses on new exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited the Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) where an exhibition is being held to familiarize the public with JDTC activities and its new handicrafts, the production of which is benefiting many families throughout the Kingdom.

JDTC, a project of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, supports 2,000 craft producers in 20 different craft groups in Jordan with product development, technical and management training, and marketing.

The product display highlighted the Centre's new exports which include carpets with mosaic and Islamic calligraphy motifs, ceramic stoneware, and embroidered home furnishings featuring indigenous stitches and patterns which had been in danger of dying out.

These products are made by women in the Jerash Handicraft

Centre, a new weaving centre recently opened in Rimoun, the Gaza refugee camp, Al Hashmiyya and Al Hussainiyya villages near Ma'an, and in community centres in Amman. They will be shown over the coming months at the International Carpet and Rug Market in Atlanta, the International Gift Fair in New York, and the Maison des International Creatives home furnishings show in Paris.

JDTC's products are locally available at hotel gift shops, the Duty Free Shop, and tourist sites. JDTC was established by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1990 as part of the National Handicraft Development Project to revitalize handicrafts through a business-oriented approach that focuses on market expansion. The primary objectives of the project are to create jobs, increase income, and to upgrade the quality of life of needy families and communities in Jordan.

Plan for Jordan licence plates approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of ministers has approved a plan allowing trucks with temporary licence plates to have Jordanian plates if their owners pay customs duty and other fees; the fees can be paid by instalment.

A statement by the Ministry of Finance and Customs said that owners of such trucks can apply for Jordanian plates if they owned their vehicles before June 30, 1992 and if they meet the following conditions: Truck owners apply for the plan before November 1992; trucks and trailers have licence plates from non-Jordanian Arab countries and are owned by Jordanian citizens; — customs duty and other taxes are paid monthly, with the first instalment being no less than 10 per cent of the total amount required customs duty and fees. The remaining sum can be spread over 5 years; — those wishing to pay the customs duty by instalment must also produce a bank guarantee to support their application — all vehicles must have comprehensive insurance, covering the vehicle's value; — truck owners who delay payment for six months risk their vehicles being impounded and sold by auction.

The statement said that regulations covering the new plan have been distributed to all customs stations.

Family and community medicine centres to be built in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health is enlisting the assistance of Jordanian and Foreign universities to establish centres for studies on family and community medicine, according to Dr. Adnan Abbas, the health ministry secretary general.

The ministry began recruiting and training family doctors in 1989 to implement a plan to dramatically improve health services in the Kingdom, Dr. Abbas said.

While implementing this project, the Health Ministry forged an agreement with a university in the United States and is in constant contact with the faculties of medicine at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST),

said Dr. Abbas. At the same time, the Health Ministry is running short-term training courses for doctors employed at government hospitals and health centres, Dr. Abbas added.

The ministry has plans to send its doctors to the Lebanese University of Beirut in Lebanon and the Syrian and Egyptian universities before beginning the project to set up centres for studying family and community medicine, Dr. Abbas said.

He added that once the ministry has obtained a sufficient number of doctors to be employed for this vital project, they will be distributed to various governorates.

132 summer clubs to open

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education will open on Saturday 132 summer clubs in the Kingdom.

The summer clubs, expected to be attended by 17,975 students, will last for four weeks. Students enrolled in these clubs will receive lessons and training in sports, science, art, Islamic education, music, sewing, typing, and computers, according to Ashour Shihdeh, head of the summer clubs and public service section at the ministry.

Students will also have a chance to read newspapers and books, available at every summer club. They will also visit archaeological and tourist attractions and see educational films, Mr. Shihdeh urged families to encourage their children to enrol.

In another development, the ministry will hold a three-week camp, the Al Hussein Camp for Work, about 120 students from the 10th and 11th grades of ministry schools are expected to build walls and pave school-yards in six schools in Rabba in south Jordan. In the afternoon, students will take part in educational, social and recreational activities. The ministry will provide uniforms and pocket money, as well as transportation from the camp to the work sites.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Sarvath attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Tuesday attended the graduation of the 24th batch of graduates from Qadisiyyah Community College and handed diplomas to graduating students. The graduation ceremony was attended by senior Ministry of Higher Education officials, as well as students guardians.

Marketing workshop for rural products

MAAN (Petra) — Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Maan organised Tuesday, in cooperation with the cooperative organisation, a workshop on techniques for marketing products at the rural bazaar, now being held at the centre. The workshop and the bazaar aim to market products by rural women in Maan governorate.

Ministry to mark new Hijri year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will mark Wednesday the new Hijri year which falls on Thursday July 2. A main celebration will be held on the occasion at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman. The celebration will include addresses by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Atef Al Butoush and Armed Forces Mufti Noah Salman.

Department closes wells

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Health Department has decided to close down five water wells because the water was unfit for human consumption, Department Director Abdul Aziz Al Shreideh said. Dr. Shreideh called on owners of wells in the governorate to abide by health regulations set by the department and to sterilise water by adding chlorine.

Relief planes land in Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

Sarajevo airport Monday, pulling back into surrounding territory. U.N. peacekeepers raised the U.N. flag over the tarmac.

But U.N. officials cautioned that the airfield would not be secure for an airlift until more peacekeepers arrived.

Although sporadic shelling continued in parts of the Bosnian capital, and the amount of airlifted supplies was a drop in the ocean for the 300,000 hungry civilians trapped in the city, there was a new air of optimism and many people were out in the streets.

The opening of the airport is a

symbol of the opening of the town and the end of the suffering," said Radio Sarajevo editor Gordana Sandic-Hadzhasanovic. But occasional firing in the city centre and old town and in the Dobrinja suburb close to the airport to the southwest showed how easily the optimism might be shattered.



S. Korea donates 17 vehicles

AMMAN (J.T.) — South Korea on Tuesday presented the Civil Defence Department (CDD) with 17 pick-up cars and a South Korean-made water tanker.

The gift was presented to CDD Director General Aff Al Ghoul by the South Korean Ambassador to Jordan, Han-Choon Lee. The CDD chief thanked the ambassador for his country's gift which, he said, will be used to further promote the department's endeavours to protect civilians and their property.

The 17 vehicles will be used for CCD operations. The presentation of the gift ceremony was attended by Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul and other officials.

Abu Jaber in Hungary holds talks on greater cooperation

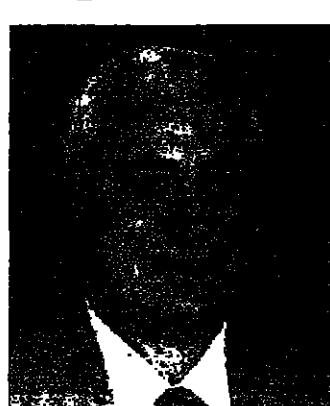
AMMAN (Petra) — The Hungarian Foreign Minister, Gira Parinsky, met visiting Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber in Budapest and announced later that his government was determined to lay the foundation for high-level cooperation with Jordan in various fields.

The Hungarian minister said that his country deeply appreciates the policies of His Majesty King Hussein who is admired by Hungarians.

The minister also spoke in detail about the recent developments in Eastern Europe, in particular Hungary.

Dr. Abu Jaber held comprehensive talks with Mr. Parinsky, reviewing Jordanian-Hungarian relations in various fields. The two ministers also discussed issues and problems in Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Abu Jaber presented an outline of Jordan's democratic experiment and the Kingdom's continued efforts to ensure peace through the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories and



Kamel Abu Jaber

provide for Palestinians to regain their legitimate rights in their homeland.

Talks between Dr. Abu Jaber and his Hungarian counterpart were preceded by a tour of various organisations. Dr. Abu Jaber and his delegation visited the president and members of the parliamentary Arab-Hungarian friendship society.

Discussions during the visit covered issues and challenges facing the two countries and means of fostering bilateral ties.

Students turning to vocational training to meet local demand

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education said Tuesday that its schools offering vocational training courses and academic teaching have so far graduated 78,116 students.

The trainees have taken courses in industry, handicrafts, commerce, hotel management, agriculture, nursing, postal services and dressmaking, according to a ministry statement.

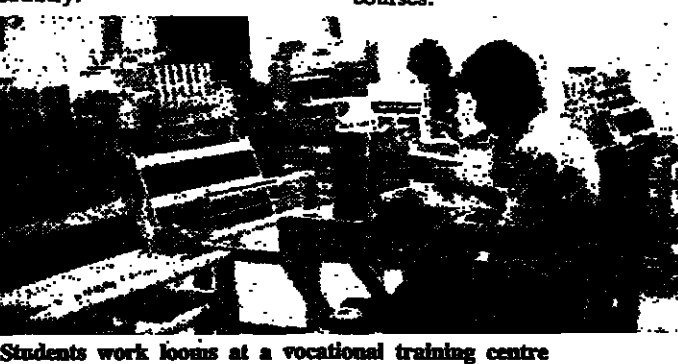
The statement said that students turning to vocational training courses at government schools are increasing, indicating a trend among students to learn trades highly demanded in the local labour market.

The director of the ministry's vocational training department, Ali Nasrallah, said that these schools have been supplying the local market with much needed skilled people, who are replacing non-Jordanian workers in the country.

Mr. Nasrallah noted in his statement that his department was currently involved in preparing new curricula and new textbooks for the vocational training classes to run in line with the general plan of overhauling the educational system in Jordan, which is based on resolutions and recommendations issued by the 1987 national education conference.

Mr. Nasrallah explained that agricultural training will be divided into courses on animals and plants and vocational classes, to be supplied with modern equipment and held in modern buildings that cater to the needs of vocational training.

According to Mr. Nasrallah, the new plan meets the needs of the local companies for skilled labour and offers students a chance to work for local firms while continuing their training courses.



Students work on a vocational training centre

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Beladina Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohyee Khaleel at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of Air France posters at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of new geological maps of Jordan at the British Council.

★ Exhibition of paintings, Arab calligraphy, handicrafts and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education.

Bani Hamida

Summer Special

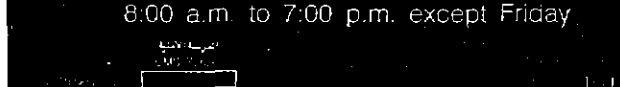
10%-50% discount on selected items

handmade rugs, cushions, baskets and wallhangings at the

Bani Hamida House

from Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th July

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. except Friday



For more information call 658696

Jordan phosphates sets joint venture with Japan

By Jane Arrat

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's phosphate company, a major world producer, is planning joint ventures with Japan and India in a push to increase its share of the refined fertilisers market, its managing director said on Monday.

Thabet Al-Tajer said in an interview that the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company Ltd. will sign an agreement next month with four Japanese companies to build a \$60 million plant at the Red Sea port of Aqaba expected to begin production in 1994.

He said the project will use Potash, Phosphoric and Sulphuric acids and ammonia to produce 300,000 tonnes of complex fertiliser a year for the Japanese market.

"We cannot continue to depend on exporting raw products — there is a trend toward importing finished products and we have to try to meet that demand," Thabet said.

He said importers such as Japan and France, worried about

the environmental impact of fertiliser plants on their own soil, were now increasingly buying finished products.

Jordan's phosphate industry, the third largest in the world and one of the Kingdom's main foreign exchange earners, has suffered along with other major producers from a drop in the world market caused by upheaval in eastern Europe.

Total world phosphates exports dropped by 13.5 per cent in 1991 from the previous year largely because of the loss of markets in the former Soviet Union which stopped importing the fertiliser base as they reorganised industries.

"I don't expect exports to jump again in 1992 to previous levels but there may be a gain within the same level of 1991," Thabet said. He said his company exported 2.2 million tonnes of raw phosphates in the first six months of 1992, up from 1.9 million tonnes in the same period last year.

Thabet said Mitsubishi Corp, its Mitsubishi-Kasie chemical unit,

Asahi Chemical Industry Co. Ltd. and the Zenoh Chemical Firm will together hold a 60 per cent equity in the joint venture. The phosphates company and Jordan-based Arab Potash Co. will hold 20 per cent each.

Thabet said his company was trying to arrange financing for a joint venture with India expected to begin operation by 1995 and would invite bids for construction by September.

The South Jordan plant will use 700,000 tonnes of phosphates a year to produce an annual 220,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid for export to the Indian market.

Indian potash will hold 60 per cent of the equity while Jordan Phosphate Mines will have the remainder of the venture, estimated to cost between \$100 million and \$110 million.

Thabet said his company, which last year made JD 33.1 million (\$49.3 million) profit on sales of JD 218.6 million (\$325.7 million), was trying to cut production costs partly through discussions with the Jordanian government on taxes and transit costs.

Khasawneh: Research centre needs more independence

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop organised by the Ministry of Agriculture to evaluate the performance of the ministry's national centre for agricultural research and technology transfer, ended here Tuesday.

Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh stressed the need for the centre to have administrative and financial independence to provide a suitable atmosphere for its employees to be top-notch.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Khasawneh said the two-day workshop discussed several issues related to the centre. One of the most important issues under discussion was whether to keep the centre as a department affiliated to the ministry or to make it an independent establishment under the provisions of a special law. He said issues discussed at the

seminar will be studied and measures taken to increase the centre's role in serving agriculture in Jordan.

A paper presented to the workshop by Salah Jum'a, a consultant at the centre, reviewed ways to prepare a strategy for agricultural researches.

The paper, entitled "Preparing a Medium-term Strategy and Workshop for the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer," said one of the first attempts to prepare such a strategy was at a workshop organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for international development (USAID) in 1986. This workshop, Mr. Jum'a said in his paper, had asked the board of directors of the centre to draw up a plan for agricultural research and workplans for the centre. Mr. Jum'a said another

attempt was during a workshop held in 1990. At the workshop eight fields for the centre to operate within during the next five years had been defined.

According to Mr. Jum'a, these fields were: the maximum use of natural resources; resisting pests; high-quality production; marketing; improving farm management; local production of improved seeds; improved animal production and improved agricultural patterns.

At the beginning of 1992, the Ministry of Agriculture prepared a medium-range plan for the centre in cooperation with several international agricultural organisations, Mr. Jum'a said. He added that the ministry also formed a team that will follow up the situation in the agricultural sector, development plans and other matters.

For the first time Jordan geologists draw maps without British help

By Raghdah Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the first time, Jordanian geologists at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) are drawing geological maps on their own, without the help of their British colleagues.

This achievement is the fruit of a long standing Jordanian-British cooperation project where the British Geology Survey and the British government granted technical assistance and specialised equipment for geological mapping.

The first phase of the project was upgrading geologists' skills to these special maps. Jordanians are now performing such tasks and their first map of Petra is the main exhibit of 27 maps on display at the British Council in Amman.

Main Hiyari, director of the geology section at NRA, told the Jordan Times that geological mapping in any country is an important tool and the basis for drawing up construction plans. It also illustrates terrain. "Any construction planning in its initial stages requires a clear picture of the different geological features of the land going to be used for construction whether the purpose be roads, dams, agricultural projects or even archaeological site excavations," Mr. Hiyari said.

He added that geological maps are also vital for exploring and investigating minerals, oil and

water. The NRA publishes bulletins that accompany these maps and which briefly outline data collected on certain areas: for example, availability of minerals, water, soil type and plants. The information provides scientific descriptions of rock components which are important in planning stages.

Explorations

Mr. Hiyari said that during geological mapping operations in different parts of Jordan a number of minerals and industrial rocks were discovered. For example, oil shale was discovered in the middle of Jordan, feldspar and travertine rocks, used in glass and ceramic industries, were discovered on the Aqaba coastline, and granite used as a decorative stone was also found in Aqaba.

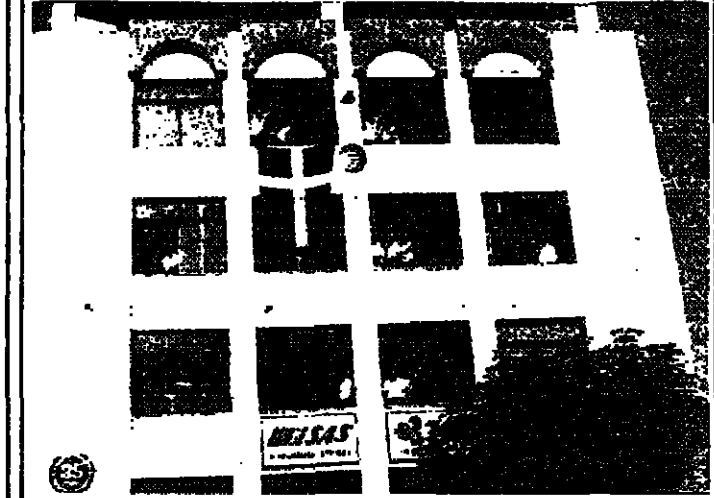
"Oil shale was found in huge quantities, billions of tons. This oil shale consists of rocks that contain oil and those discovered in Jordan are of good quality, near the surface and easy to extract," Mr. Hiyari said. However, due to the fact that extracting oil from oil shale is very expensive worldwide, it is considered economically unfeasible especially if compared with ordinary oil, in terms of its accessibility. "One can figure this out by imagining that a rock weighing one ton renders one oil barrel only," he added.

Archaeology and Geological Mapping

Geological mapping is also essential in archaeological, conservation and excavation work. Whenever a site is identified as a result of studies or surveys, the appropriate authorities are informed. Yet, it has been established that most conservation work of archaeological sites demands a geologist among its workers. For example, the government asked NRA to assist in the conservation project of Karak castle.

A full study was carried out and it was established that the foundations had been weakened over the years and swamped with water. A new base was filed and a supportive cement wall was constructed. NRA had then to identify rocks from other parts of the country that are identical to the original ones. When this was done rocks were used to complete the exterior of the castle. Mr. Hiyari pointed out that the job was almost a perfect one.

NRA has been requested by the concerned authorities in Jordan to participate in a committee established for the conservation of Petra. Recent problems, such as cracks in the archaeological sites of this ancient city in the rocks, have been reported. NRA is now carrying out geological studies on the site as well as engineering studies to establish a scientific approach to the problem.



Denmark celebrates soccer victory

The Honorary Consulate of Denmark in Amman and Aqaba celebrated the victory of the Danish Soccer Team which won the 1992 European Soccer Championship Cup. In the photo, staff working for Amin Kassar Group of Companies in Amman, where the consulate is located, celebrate this occasion, together with the Honorary Consul of Denmark in Jordan, Tawfiq Kassar.

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Economic Forum

Expensive suits, bread and butter

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

MOST recent data published on Jordan's national accounts indicate that our gross national product (GNP) at factor cost for 1990 reached JD1,940 million (1991 figures are not available yet). GNP, at factor cost, is the nearest measure to national income. To arrive at this income, depreciation allowances (not available yet as well) have to be subtracted from GNP (factor cost). In the light of data for previous years, these allowances can be estimated at JD200 million, meaning that our national income for 1990 stood at around JD1,740 million or \$2,600 million. In other words, per capita income in Jordan amounts to around \$800.

These figures which represent unfortunately solid and cruel facts of life were so much in my mind last week when I walked around in Jabal Amman and read the price marks in a number of show windows. In 1985, for example, per capita income reached \$1,500. And we are talking about current prices. The purchasing power of the present dollars are way behind those of 1985, which means that the march on the road to impoverishment has been actually much more disastrous. The accumulated rate of inflation

in the United States in the period 1985-90 adds to about 25 per cent. In other words, Jordan's real per capita income in 1990 equals only 40 per cent of that of 1985 or \$600.

Now let us go back to Jabal Amman show windows. At one place, a suit sells for JD900: yes, nine hundred dinars or \$1,340. The entire income of two Jordanian citizens in a whole year must be used to pay for this single current luxury consumption item. Is this compatible with common sense?

This provocative situation poses the question of whether it is legitimate for a developing country of the low income group to allow the importation and exhibiting of luxury wares as we in Jordan have been doing. It also testifies to the unbalanced nature of economic development that our ongoing economic policy is producing.

Some of us may harbour a degree of complacency to the extent that they boast this situation on the grounds that we do have consumers who can and do buy such expensive items. But this sort of false glories only underlines the deepening of class disparities in our society and suggests that our economic development is, at

best, supplanting social disequilibria with the so-called economic imbalances. The odd phenomenon of the shockingly expensive suit is a product of the open import policy incorporated in the IMF-inspired versions of market economies. Although nobody wants to quarrel with or challenge the efficiency of a market economy, no such economy prohibits the adoption of discriminate import policies and regulations that block the emergence of socio-economic oddities.

It is grossly wrong to liken our society in this respect to the economically advanced societies where even more glaring disparities may exist. The reason is simple. The tolerance of these societies is greatly enhanced by two powerful systems that considerably mitigate or even neutralise the impact of class disparities, namely the comprehensive national social security system and the national health system which provide each and every citizen with the basics of life.

But certainly the case is much different when certain classes can afford to buy JD900 suits while others can hardly buy butter or even bread.

Hands off the economy!

WHILE ADVOCATES of capitalism and privatisation point to the defunct Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for unequivocal evidence of the inaptness of government meddling with the forces of the market, Jordan does not need to look that far to recognise the validity of their views.

The poor economic performance of many of our state-owned and controlled businesses exposes the inefficiency of government intervention with the "invisible hand" of the market. The government's repeated failures to revamp these corporations despite the many committees and commissions and studies makes the strongest argument for a hands-off policy.

The Telecommunications Corporation, a state monopoly that refuses to privatise, charges one of the world's highest rates for services that fail to satisfy many customers. The buses of the Public Transportation Corporation have yet to reach many destinations in the country and problems with scheduling and maintenance are frustrating factors to any one who uses them. And if you leave politics aside, all economic facts call for the grounding of Royal Jordanian planes. Hence is the absurdity of the government's intentions, to set up a new committee to formulate a seven-year economic plan. The country would be better off, and tax payers money better spent if the purpose of the committee were to dismantle government monopoly, and liberalise the economy.

The government needs to waste no time in starting the much belated process of moving towards a real free market economy. More bureaucracy and intervention will only discourage potential investors and curb economic growth. A new committee would not be able to do more than its predecessors did.

Jordan's economy will not improve unless the private sector is allowed to wheel and deal in an environment free from government obstacles and red tape. If the government wants to help, it can best do that by staying out of the way. It can still form its committees and conduct its studies, but its decisions should be unbending, its grip over businesses eased. A mild form of indicative planning is the limit that the government should not cross.

The economic performance of any country depends on investment environment, institutions and policies. There is little we can do about our meagre resources but the sky is the limit to what we can do with our institutions and ill-perceived policies.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is not enough to condemn the assassination of Algerian leader Mohammed Boudiaf but we ought rather to discuss the reasons behind the assassination and the events that led to it so as to avoid further upheavals, said Al Ra'i in an editorial Tuesday. One has to realise and to admit that under democracy dialogue should be the rule of the day and not confrontation or assassination, and one cannot ignore the facts that if democracy does not prevail no stability or lasting peace can emerge in any Arab country, the paper noted. The paper said that the Western countries, which had all long encouraged democracy in the Arab World, had suddenly turned against it when it started to emerge. Thus, the paper added, one can say that these Western nations were instrumental in assassinating democracy in Algeria and in paving the ground for the bloody situation in that country. The Western countries, added the daily, have been showing total enmity towards Arab states embodying democracy and have been displaying encouragement and support for those Arab regimes which chose to strike at the masses and to deprive them of their basic freedoms. The assassination of Boudiaf can by no means win the support of any sensible man, and Jordan demands immediate trial for the perpetrators. But Jordan is of the view that the rulers of the country should delve deep into the causes of the current turmoil in the country and try to defuse the situation before other disasters can occur, called the paper. It said that the real assassins of Boudiaf were not those who planted the bombs or fired the guns, but those hypocrites who were demanding that the Arabs embrace democracy, but later turned against any Arab state embarking on steps leading to democratic rule.

Sawt Al Shabab daily commented on Israel's interrogation of the members of the Palestinian delegation upon their return to the occupied Arab land and said that no one was surprised to see such practice being followed by the Zionist state. The Shamir government considers the whole of the Palestinian territory as part of the Zionist entity and the Palestinian people subject to Israeli laws, noted the paper. What we should realise is the fact that Shamir's statement about peace with the Arabs and his readiness to pursue the peace process were nothing but a manoeuvre to gain more time to allow for more settlements to mushroom in the occupied Arab territories, prior to imposing a de facto solution on the Arabs and the Palestinians, noted the daily. The paper said that the interrogation of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks showed once again that Israel did not recognise the rights of the Palestinians in the diaspora, let alone the fact that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people everywhere. The paper said that through this policy, Shamir and his government were leading a terrorist policy and blackmail against the Palestinian negotiators and the Palestinian people at large. The paper expressed hope that Rabin would now benefit from the past lessons and avoid any action that might further delay the peace process from taking its course.

Saudis blame leaders for 'new world order'

By Robert Fisk

THE TAPES are circulating again in Saudi Arabia, just as they clandestinely made their way around the kingdom at the height of the allied air bombardment against Iraq. King Fahd's "reforms" — his "consultative council" — are worthless, they say. Anyone who attended the Middle East peace conference in Madrid was a traitor. If Saddam Hussein is an infidel who murdered his own Muslim people, the tapes claim, then so is the Syrian President, Hafez Al Assad, who killed thousands of Muslims in the Hama uprising in 1982.

Saudi religious police raided cassette shops to confiscate the tapes, most of which take the form of sermons complete with cries of approval from worshippers. Sunni religious sources in Cairo say at least 20 fundamentalists behind the campaign have been arrested. The small Lebanese-edited newsletter issues, published in Paris, even claims that the new fundamentalist current in the kingdom includes Abdul Rahman Safar Al Hawali, head of Islamic doctrine at the University of Mecca.

What characterises the taped sermons is their readiness to blame Arab leaders for the "new world order" which President George Bush has imposed upon the Middle East. If President Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was merely a pretext for the dispatch of U.S. troops to the Gulf in 1990, they say, it was the Arab kings and generals who abetted Washington's plan to crush a renaissance Islam. Thus President Saddam and President Assad both incur the wrath of the Saudi fundamentalist Sunni Muslim preachers. The Kurds slaughtered by Mr. Saddam's gas attacks were Sunnis. So were thousands of Syrians cut down in Hama. Hundreds of Syrian Sunnis fled to Saudi Arabia after the city fell to Mr. Assad's forces in 1982 and they still hate the Syrian Baathist regime.

The tapes contain the attention to dubious detail that identifies a truly eccentric mind. Thus a reported assertion by Richard Nixon that East and West will join to fight Muslims, an alleged claim by Jimmy Carter that Christians and Jews "share" the Torah, and the hysterical preachings of the "televangelist" Jerry Falwell are presented by the Saudi preachers as proof that Christians were the first Zionists.

But their historical analysis is more effective. In the First World

War, the sermons proclaim, Arabs fought alongside Christians against Turkish Muslims — only to be rewarded with the Balfour Declaration supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In the Second World War, Muslims fought alongside Christians against the Nazis but were repaid with the creation of the state of Israel.

These banned sermons are important, not because they have angered the Saudi royal family, but because they provide a glimpse through a dark, secretive window of the anger generated by U.S. hegemony over the Middle East and by the disunity in the Arab World. With neither a superpower ally nor a representative leader among their nations, Arab frustration is growing.

Obviously, there is little for Washington to worry about, Iraq is on its knees. Libya has been brought so far to heel that its leading newspaper now apparently dares to condemn Muammar Qaddafi and question the concept of "Arab unity" which, since Nasser's rule, has been the supposed raison d'être of Middle East dictators. As for Egypt, it was a Palestinian delegate to the peace negotiations who summed up President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. "We call him 'His Master's Voice,'" the delegate said. "He is an American puppet. But faced with an Islamic renaissance, heaven help us, we need this puppet because the alternative is too terrible to contemplate."

Iran is supposedly in the hands of the "pragmatists." Its Foreign Minister's visit to Beirut mysteriously coincided with a virtual end to Hizbollah attacks on Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, a cessation of hostilities requested by Washington. Syria has acceded to the demands of the U.S. and its allies. Washington wanted Syrian Jews to be allowed to emigrate; the Syrians granted their wish. Turkey demanded the closing of Kurdish PKK guerrilla camps under Syrian protection in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley; the camps were promptly closed. The U.S. sought the liberation of political prisoners in Syria; Syria freed around 300,000. What is disturbing is not that these changes are for the worse — some are self-evidently for the better — but that they have about through coercion rather than free will.

Where dissent is obvious, the West has tended to ignore it. The murder in Cairo on June 9 of Faraj Foudah, the intellectual who had struggled for a liberal



M. KAHIL

"In the First World War Arabs fought alongside Christians against Turkish Muslims — only to be rewarded with the Balfour Declaration supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In the Second World War, Muslims fought alongside Christians against the Nazis but were repaid with the creation of the state of Israel. The message is clear: worse will follow the Arab alliance with the West against Iraq."

interpretation of Islamic law, is being treated as an isolated "terrorist" incident, to be disregarded with the same speed as the killing of Christians in Christian-Muslim fighting in Egypt last month. The world has almost forgotten Algeria, where the authorities in January suspended democratic elections because the Islamic party was certain to win. Yet five Algerian army battalions earlier in June carried out a secret sweep against Muslim rebels through the mountains 50 miles from Algiers, in which five guerrillas and three soldiers were killed.

The Middle East will remain quiescent so long as U.S. clients in the region remain securely upon their presidential or monarchical thrones. For democracy, as the Algerian experience has shown, is likely to throw up the kind of powerful Islamic movement which will be opposed to the West's interests. This must be why Washington preferred to keep an emasculated President

Saddam in Baghdad, rather than support the rebellions which threatened to overthrow him.

The former Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations Ghasan Tuani, touched on this issue when he spoke at Oxford last month on the prospects for a Middle East peace. "Having resisted Communism and socialism without assuming democracy," he said, "Arab politics has produced one innovation — so far more negative than positive — a movement of opposition rather than a system of government: religious fundamentalism. Called upon to express itself in modern terms, religious fundamentalism has not generated — at least not yet — concepts of power and management compatible with the secular needs of a state ... A notable feature of our decadence was to view our renaissance as a return to the past, not a leap into the future."

Mr. Tuani understands Middle East states' need to live in the

technological age, and their failure to contribute to science and modern learning rather than acting merely as a consumer. Because the Middle East remains a region at war — and because the Soviet Union, the backbone of the most dictatorial Arab powers, has crumbled — the tendency of Arab leaders' had been to fear the future rather than meet its challenge.

Thus security for the Saudis involves further purchases of American weapons, missiles and fighter-bombers. Since the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia has ordered \$15bn (£8.1bn) of American arms. Egypt received military supplies and had its debts written off by Washington. Turkey received new armour from Germany, which it used against Kurdish civilians. If Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey are now the "triple pillars" of the West's control of the Middle East, their principal instruments remain the same: guns.

The Saudis also use money. They funded many of the rebel groups who fought the Soviet army in Afghanistan and are fighting Iran's proxy rebels for control of Kabul. Saudi money is being poured into the southern Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union to counter Iran's influence. Saudi money is behind the plans to rebuild a new pro-Western Beirut. The Lebanese have noted with curiosity the plans for super-highways to link Beirut to Lebanon's southern frontier with Israel. It is, they wonder, preparation for the "new" Levant which the West is

planning once an Arab-Israeli peace has been agreed, in which Israelis can drive to Beirut in less than two hours?

The Israelis have no reason to be content with this scenario. If the Arabs can be cowed, or bought, Israel's role as a regional superpower, disappears. Saudi wealth is greater than Israeli wealth, Egyptian manpower vaster than Israeli manpower, Turkey's influence over the emerging Muslim republics more important than Israel's. What Israel has, and which the Arabs do not have, is the technological advance which places them scientifically if not politically alongside the West.

How can the Arabs come to terms with this? They have no "Arab world order" to match Mr. Bush's "new world order." The absence of democracy has produced Arab police states whose torture apparatus and prisons work for the same old leader, who once received weapons from Moscow and now largely receive them from Washington. The cost of post-Gulf war arms transfers comes to almost \$17bn, a shocking reflection on the supposed peace and security which Mr. Bush promised the Middle East in February last year.

The result is that opposition remains "largely covert, often dangerous, invariably uncompromising and always Islamic. The more Arab leaders are forced to rely on the West for support, the more Islamic movements regard the West as their enemy. Where countries have fallen out of the Western orbit — Sudan, for instance — the West has come to view them as "terrorist nests." It was Ghasan Tuani who asked how a military dictatorship could be "deconstructed" without resort to force or a substitute dictatorship. The West's policies suggest that neither Europe nor the U.S. has much interest in such a development. Why risk encouraging real democracy — with unsatisfactory results for the West — when those friendly kings and emirs and military presidents will keep order on their behalf?

Tragically, this seems to be the measure of the "Arab world order": benevolent dictators doing the West's bidding, helping to crush Arab rulers who become too Messianic, ready to sit down with the Israelis if that is what Washington wants, while all the while fearing the secret voices, the clandestine tapes and the solitary, expected assassin — The Independent.

Yeltsin diplomacy damps conflicts, but for how long?

By John Morrison
Reuters

ISTANBUL — After a hectic week of peacemaking with his neighbours, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has managed to take the heat out of some of the worst conflicts tormenting the former Soviet Union.

Though the climate has improved, few would place bets on the chances of a quick end to the political, ethnic and territorial disputes between Russia and its former imperial possessions many of them regarded as part of Russia since their conquest by Peter the Great in the early 18th century.

Mr. Yeltsin's biggest problem is that not everyone, even in his own administration, agrees where the frontiers of the new Russia should lie — or even who should be regarded as a Russian citizen. The millions of ethnic Russians

and Russian-speakers left outside the borders of the Russian republic pose a huge problem for Mr. Yeltsin, accused by many of failing to defend their interests in the six months since the Soviet Union broke up.

During his brief stay on the Bosphorus, Mr. Yeltsin managed to cobble together a fragile agreement to defuse tension in Moldova, where more than 300 people were killed last week in a full-scale battle between government forces and Slav separatists.

Earlier in the week he met Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to try to broker the same kind of accord for Georgia's South Ossetia region, where a mini-war has been raging for months between Georgian fighters and Russian-speaking Ossetians.

Reaction from South Ossetia was not encouraging. Local leaders rejected it and vowed to

continue their campaign to secede and join North Ossetia, an autonomous region of Russia next door.

Diplomats said the Moldova agreement also looked fragile, even though Mr. Yeltsin conceded in principle that the Russian 14th army would have eventually to withdraw from the Dnestr region back to Russia.

There was no sign of any movement by Moldova on a key Russian demand — backed by Ukraine — that the Dnestr region should be given autonomy rather than the special administrative status that Moldova authorities have in mind.

Mr. Yeltsin's diplomatic week by the Black Sea began on Tuesday at Dagomys near Sochi when he met Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, who described the talks as a turning point in the troubled relations between Kiev and Moscow.

In Istanbul, Russian and Ukrainian officials said they were happy with the talks but gave radically different accounts of what had been agreed on the sensitive issue of how to share out the Black Sea fleet.

Some of the fires Mr. Yeltsin has been trying so hard to put out are the result of old national grievances over Soviet internal borders, which frequently ignored both historical and natural ethnic frontiers as part of a deliberate divide-and-rule policy invented by Josef Stalin.

Others are the legacy of the Gorbachev era and of longstanding resentments in the former republic against centuries of oppressive rule in Moscow.

Internal political rivalries in Mr. Yeltsin's own camp as politicians angle for the "patriotic" vote are also playing increasing role.

The latest flare-ups in Moldova

and South Ossetia occurred while Mr. Yeltsin was away. No sooner had he left for Washington than Russia's parliamentary speaker Russian Khazbulatov, once a Yeltsin ally but now a rival, warned Georgia that Russia might annex South Ossetia if its population so desired.

On Saturday, responding to the bloodshed in Moldova, Mr. Yeltsin's strongly nationalist Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi appeared on television to warn of retribution against the "cynical politicians" in Georgia and Moldova who were committing genocide against Russians.

Mr. Yeltsin returned from a triumphant week in North America to find his country slithering into war and was forced to try to repair the damage.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, explaining Mr. Yeltsin's approach to journalists here, said relations between Rus-

sia and the newly independent republics "have to be handled with a scalpel — it's very delicate work."

"There is no place for megaphone diplomacy and striking heroic poses which do nothing but encourage bloodshed," he said. "Certainly there is no place for the logic of firing 10 shots back for each one fired at your side."

Mr. Kozyrev appeared to be referring to Mr. Rutskoi, who warned Moldova last week that "if one more shell falls on the territory of a military unit or on civilian headquarters, the side that launched it will get 10 times as much in return."

"He fought for 10 years in Afghanistan according to that logic," the Russian foreign minister told reporters. "Now we are transferring that experience into our relations with our neighbours."

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Plot seen in Boudiaf killing

(Continued from page 1)

secretly acknowledged its organisation had been destroyed and it must rebuild clandestine cells and regain power through the mosques.

Before the banning, a European diplomat commented: "If the FIS is banned what have they of expressing themselves? They will be forced to go underground, to go terrorist."

In a clandestinely distributed communiqué just before the court ruling, fugitive leader Abderrazak Rajjani warned: "Dissolution of the FIS... will take the country to an uncertain tomorrow."

Islamic radicals were not the only suspects in the murder. "We can't exclude the eventual complicity of other parties having an interest to see the disappearance of Mr. Boudiaf," Algerian writer and economics professor Rachid Mimouni said in an interview with the French newspaper Le Figaro.

Mr. Mimouni speculated that the FLN which ruled Algeria as a single-party, Marxist state for 30 years, took revenge on Mr. Boudiaf for relegating it to the sidelines since January.

Another possibility is that the army, irritated by the release of thousands of fundamentalists from detention camps, organised the killing to provide cause for a renewed, harsher crackdown.

Mr. Boudiaf had also campaigned against corruption, threatening the interests of the political and bureaucratic elite that many Algerians refer to as "the mafia."

The capital was calm. Flags dropped to half-staff and July 5 independence day celebrations were cancelled as a week of official mourning opened. There was no increased security presence in the capital or in Annaba.

In Algiers, workers at bus stops and women in shops discussed little but the slaying. They snatched up newspapers that headlined, "the patriot assassinated" and "Algeria mourns."

"We consider the suspects to be either the fundamentalists or the political-financial mafia," declared the centrist Le Quotidien d'Algerie. Like other media, it had little hard information.

The High State Council that Mr. Boudiaf led continued meeting Tuesday, presumably to choose a successor. Observers favoured Defence Minister General Khaled Nezzar, the regime's strongman, or Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali.

"The investigation is continuing to uncover those who commanded this assassination, as well as all the parties implicated," the government said in a statement read Monday on state television.

Television showed Mr. Boudiaf speak his last words before two bursts from a sub-machine gun tore into his head and back.

"We must know that the life of a human being is very short," Mr. Boudiaf said. "We are all going to die. Why should we cling so much to power? ... Islam ..."

Then gunfire. No group claimed responsibility. If it was the work of fundamentalists, the killing would show high organisation in the extremist underground. It could provoke retribution in Algeria and other Arab states, such as Tunisia and Egypt, that face violent fundamentalist movements.

The so-called mafia suspected by Le Quotidien d'Algerie refers to leaders popularly suspected of creaming off the nation's oil wealth. Mr. Boudiaf had launched a recent anti-corruption campaign.

Mr. Boudiaf was the most prominent Arab leader slain since the 1981 killing of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt by fundamentalists.

A hero of the independence struggle against France, Mr. Boudiaf spent 28 years in self-imposed exile in neighbouring Morocco after a falling out with his fellow revolutionaries. He returned six months ago to try to unify this nation split between the increasingly popular fundamentalist movement and its secular leaders.

He was chosen to head the government because of his lack of ties to former, corrupt administrations. Despite his title, real power belonged to Gen. Nezzar and the military leaders who cancelled runoff parliamentary elections in January that the FIS was expected to win.

The vote would have been the first free parliamentary elections in 30 years of independence.

The killing could give the military a freer hand to crush the fundamentalists. In an interview published Sunday, Gen. Nezzar vowed to wage "implacable war" to "eradicate" Islamic guerrillas.

Mr. Boudiaf was shot after a small bomb, apparently meant to divert attention, exploded near the podium, the state Algerie Press Service (APS) reported. It said a grenade was thrown under Mr. Boudiaf's chair about the time he was shot.

Television showed the chaotic assassination scene. Mr. Boudiaf lay on the floor covered by an Algerian flag after the shooting as the audience scrambled out of the auditorium.

Doctors at Ain Maadja military hospital near Algiers said Mr. Boudiaf was flown there for treatment and still alive when official radio announced his death at 1 p.m. (1200 GMT). They said he died about three hours later.

Rabin calls for continuous talks

(Continued from page 1)

comment until he saw the proposed guidelines, but was quoted by Yedioth as saying that a temporary freeze on settlements was open to negotiations.

"But they will have to explain the meaning of the freeze, where it will be and for how long," he was quoted as saying.

To further placate Tzomet, Labour plans to offer Mr. Eitan a letter promising that once the peace process reaches the issue of ceding occupied land in a settlement with the Arabs, new elections would be held, Yedioth said.

Palestinians, meanwhile, began formulating new demands for the peace process.

Faisal Husseini, adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team, told Yedioth the team may now insist that Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem be included in peace talks.

He told Yedioth that excluding a representative from Jerusalem was not a condition in U.S.-backed peace talks, but Palestinians "agreed to it only to keep the Israelis from shying away from negotiations."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government opposed participation of Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

Labour has said Palestinians with a double address, one in east Jerusalem and one in the territories, could participate.

Mr. Rabin, calling the previous approach "a waste of time," said

Israel was committed to implementing the Palestinian self-rule first proposed more than a decade ago in the Camp David accords.

"I believe that this is the most important and the most attainable if we want to move ahead with the peace process," he told directors of the Jewish Agency, which oversees immigration to Israel.

However, he also made clear his vision of self-rule — to last five years before a final peace settlement — fell far short of that sought by the 1.75 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Mr. Rabin drew cheers with a vow never to negotiate over occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin has proposed a freeze on what he calls political settlements — Jewish building in densely populated Arab areas in the occupied territories.

But the former army chief and defence minister reiterated that Israel should keep areas of strong military value, such as the Golan Heights, the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley and a ring of settlements around Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin has declared an agreement on limited self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip his first priority, maintaining it is a precondition to peace with other Arabs.

Mamdouh Aker, one of the Palestinian negotiators, welcomed Mr. Rabin's proposal but called on the new Israeli leader to show goodwill by easing harsh military punishment for unrest.

Mr. Aker said only: "When they come we shall solve their problem."

He said the nearly 4,000 Somalis at the beach camp, who arrived in two crowded boats last week, are not refugees because they paid for their passage across the Red Sea.

"We have been told, and it has been confirmed, that each passenger paid \$260 to the ships' owners for the passage to Aden, Mr. Aker said.

World condemns assassination

(Continued from page 1)

militants and said his successors could deepen the country's crisis if they made the killing a pretext for repression.

Tehran Radio said that Mr. Boudiaf had headed a "regime of coup d'état" set up in January to block the inevitable election victory of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"Because he (Mr. Boudiaf) had been in exile for 27 years, he had little knowledge of Algeria's internal social and political texture. His policies, therefore, lacked tact and intelligence and were based on force and suppression of militant Muslims," it said.

Algeria recalled its ambassador from Tehran in January after Iranian leaders denounced the Algerian "junta." Iranian media denied Western press reports that Tehran financed FIS.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi expressed sorrow over the assassination and expressed full solidarity with Algeria, the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

In his message of condolences, Colonel Qadhafi "reaffirmed" the depth of relations and unity of destiny binding the two peoples and countries," JANA said.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia sent a message of condolence to the Algerian presidential council.

"We pray to Almighty God to have him in His mercy, and to protect the fraternal Algerian people against all evil and misfortune," the message, run by the Saudi Press Agency, said.

Jordan's fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood condemned the assassination but said the killing was inevitable.

"Boudiaf was asking for suicide," said Ziad Abu Ghannieh, a leading Muslim Brotherhood figure. He condemned the use of violence but added:

"What happened in Algiers is a natural popular reaction against the regime which undertook a dangerous course of confronting the will of the people."

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, sent a message of condolences to the members of the High Council of State in Algeria, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said.

A similar message to Algeria's collective presidency was sent by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

China condemned the assassination and said:

"The Chinese government is shocked at the assassination. We condemn this act of violence and express our sympathy with the bereaved family. We hope that Algeria will enjoy stability."

Radical South African Muslims applauded the assassination, calling him a Westernised tyrant opposed to Islam.

"The assassination... should

serve as a lesson for all anti-Islamic Westernised tyrants and oppressors," the radical Council of Theologians said in a statement.

"Muslims the world over will rejoice over this resolute blow struck at the heart of the enemies of Islam," the statement said.

South Africa has a small Muslim community based mainly in Cape Town.

Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah said Mr. Boudiaf had brought about his own death by ending democracy.

"Boudiaf killed himself," Hizbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told a news conference in Beirut.

"Boudiaf confiscated the democratic process and confiscated the people's choice... (he) pushed the situation in Algeria into more tension, aggression, disintegration, violence and economic deterioration."

"It is natural that any ruler, tyrant or sultan who confiscates his people's will and choice... meets the same fate," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

The U.S. said: Algerian President Boudiaf was shot and killed in the eastern Algerian city of Annaba at approximately 11:30 a.m. Algerian time. We deeply regret the assassination today of the High State Council president.

"This senseless murder underlines our belief that violence cannot be the solution to Algeria's problems. We call on all parties to avoid further bloodshed."

We extend our deepest condolences to the president's family and to the Algerian people."

The assassination of Mr. Boudiaf came as a shock reminder to the European Community of the potential for political chaos in its neighbour states across the Mediterranean.

"This is alarming, catastrophic news," said one European Commission official.

"This is going to be a big new psychological shock at the very moment when Algeria is going through a difficult economic and political transition," said another EC official who recently visited Algiers.

The EC's Lisbon summit at the weekend issued a declaration promising closer political and economic links with North African nations and holding out the

prospect of ultimately creating a free trade zone with the Maghreb states, which include Algeria.

France voiced dismay at the assassination, but a leader of the country's North African Muslim community hailed it as "proof that God's justice always triumphs over human justice."

France, a strong supporter of Mr. Boudiaf, pledged continued support to its former territory. As some commentators said Algeria was on the brink of civil war, President Francois Mitterrand expressed shock at the killing.

"I hope Algeria will overcome this grave test. It knows it can count on the friendship of France on this path," he said.

The foreign ministry said it was dismayed, adding that violence would not solve any of Algeria's problems.

"(France) will be at the side of the Algerian people to pursue the reforms it has embarked upon," it said.

Hadj Aliili, Algerian fundamentalist rector of the mosque in the Mediterranean city of Marseille, told Reuters the killing was "regrettable but to be expected."

Expressing views stifled in Algeria since the imposition of a state of emergency in January, he said: "Those who live by the sword die by the sword."

British newspapers said the assassination of Mr. Boudiaf dealt a serious blow to the credibility of Algeria's authorities and could shake the whole of the Maghreb.

The Times said Algeria's military rulers knew they were taking a risk when they scrapped the second round of elections in January and pre-empting certain victory by the FIS.

It said Mr. Boudiaf was brought home from Morocco after 27 years in exile to give respectability to "a usurper regime."

"He became a symbol of the Western-oriented secularists who had cheated the fundamentalists of victory," the Times said.

The Financial Times said the murder called into question the ability of Algeria's authorities to maintain order.

It said the FIS was likely to be blamed for the killing. "That reaction cannot alter the fact that Mr. Boudiaf's death is a severe blow to the regime's credibility."

Palestinians fear U.S. demands

(Continued from page 1)

"At least, now, in Rome we will be negotiating. Irrespective of difficulties, we will have negotiations going on," said Dr. Erekat.

Palestinians say their views and those of a government under Mr. Rabin may converge on the need for a speedy agreement on interim self-rule, although there could be differences on details.

"During the transitional period we want meaningful authorities transferred to Palestinians," Dr. Erekat said.

Mr. Rabin has promised to allow Palestinians to run their own affairs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip except for defence, foreign affairs and responsibility for Jewish settlements.

He has also pledged to allow Palestinians "to choose from themselves, by themselves their

representation for the negotiations or the body that will serve as the self-rule administrative council self-governing authority."

"It depends on his intentions... I think we can reach an agreement," Dr. Erekat said.

In his first public remarks on the Israeli election, President Bush said Monday it "underscores the dynamics of the Middle East's solitary democracy."

The elections "point out the dynamism of the process and we are confident that we can work with that new Israeli government to deepen our partnership, to promote our common objective of peace with security for Israel," Mr. Bush said.

"I am dedicating myself to that," he said at a fund-raising luncheon for Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, who is seeking re-election in November.

While Mr. Bush spoke, three men stood and silently held signs reading: "Mr. President, stop stabbing Israel in the back," and "George Bush, the most hostile president ever to Israel."

The three were escorted from the room without incident.

Egypt's leading newspaper on Tuesday urged a respite in the Palestinian uprising while Mr. Rabin forms a cabinet and implements his peace policies.

The call, in an editorial in the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram, was unprecedented.

"There is no need for Palestinian organisations at this critical stage, when Rabin is forming Israel's new government, to perpetrate acts of violence or escalate fighting," the newspaper said.

"Rabin should be given a sufficient opportunity to complete his ministerial lineup and lay down his new, practical policy. Then he can be judged."

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AMMAN PLAZA

Hizbollah to run in elections

(Continued from page 1)

adopting the resistance (guerrilla attacks) option."

"Armed resistance remains our main choice as long as the (Israeli) occupation of South Lebanon persisted," Sheikh Nasrallah told reporters.

Israel has occupied a 1,100-square-kilometre strip in South Lebanon since 1985 and refers to it as the "security zone." It uses the strip as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into its northern settlements.

The bearded, black-turbaned Nasrallah said Hizbollah representatives would run for elections to "benefit from all available means to push Lebanon towards

the republic modelled on Iran."

Asked why Hizbollah decided to run, Sheikh Nasrallah said: "Taking part in parliament is different than participating in a government. Parliaments issued new laws, we want to play a role in such a process."

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the republic modelled on Iran."

Yemen, U.N. close to deal

(Continued from page 1)

another ship carrying 2,000 people to arrive in the coming days.

Mr. Attas did not name the vessel or give any other details. Reports of another such vessel have circulated for days, but it was the first such statement from a top Yemeni leader.

In Aden, the governor would not confirm a new ship was coming. Asked if Yemen would let the refugees come ashore, Mr.

Arasi said only: "When they come we shall solve their problem."

He said the nearly 4,000 Somalis at the beach camp, who arrived in two crowded boats last week, are not refugees because they paid for their passage across the Red Sea.

"We have been told, and it has been confirmed, that each passenger paid \$260 to the ships' owners for the passage to Aden, Mr. Arasi said.

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McEnroe advances at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — John McEnroe, mixing power and finesse, swept past Andrei Olhovskiy in straight sets Monday to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

McEnroe posted a 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (12-10) victory over the Russian qualifier who upset top-seeded Jim Courier in the fourth round Saturday.

On a scorching day with temperatures in the 90s (30s C), McEnroe displayed the form — and the temper — that characterized his glory days in the early 1980s when he won Wimbledon three times.

The match ended with a thrilling tiebreaker in which Olhovskiy saved four match points, but McEnroe fended off one set point.

When McEnroe finally ended the match with a service winner, he threw up his arms in triumph, screamed "yeah" and blew kisses to the crowd.

"I'm very happy I won in three sets," he said. "I felt like I had chances, but never felt like I was in total control."

"It's a great run," said McEnroe, who will next play ninth-

seeded Guy Forget of France.

It's his first time in three years that McEnroe has reached the quarterfinals. He said he still considers himself a longshot for the title.

"I'm the lowest on the list (of the quarterfinalists)," he said. "The fact I'm still in... if a couple guys go down, anything can happen."

All men's and women's fourth-round matches were being played on what was dubbed "marvelous Monday." It was the hottest day in London this year, with the temperature reaching 98 degrees (36 C) on centre court in mid-afternoon.

Britain's hopes were dashed when Jeremy Bates, the first Briton to reach the round of 16 in 10 years, squandered a match point and lost to Forget 6-7 (10-12), 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

Bates held match point while serving at 5-4 in the fourth set. But he hit a weak second serve which Forget crushed for a winner.

"I didn't chicken out," Bates said. "He came up with the good shots to win the match."

Second-seed Stefan Edberg lost his first set of the tournament

but prevailed 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (1-7),

6-3 over Swedish qualifier Henrik Holm.

Defending champion Michael Stich, the third seed, recovered after losing the first set to defeat Australia's Wally Masur 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Pete Sampras, the fifth seed, served 25 aces in a 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (11-9) victory over Arnaud Boetsch of France.

Andre Agassi, No. 12, reached the quarterfinals for the second consecutive year with a 7-6, (7-1), 6-1, 7-6 (7-0) win over Christian Saceanu. Agassi, never considered a grass-court expert, has now won nine straight sets.

Goran Ivanisevic, No. 8, advanced when No. 10 Ivan Lendl was forced to quit with a recurring back injury with the Croatain leading 6-7 (7-9), 6-1, 6-4, 1-0.

An official statement said Lendl had a stiff back and suffered "a sharp pain" at 2-1 in the third set. "From then on he could not move properly any more," it said.

Among the women, top-seeded Monica Seles led the way into the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Gigi Fernandez.

The two were deadlocked at

3-3 in the first set before Seles pulled away. She will next face Nathalie Tauziat of France, who cruised past Amy Frazier 6-0, 6-3.

Steffi Graf, the No. 2 seed, came from behind for the second straight match to down Patty Fendick 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, the third seed, downed Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 7-5, 6-2.

Sixth-seeded Jennifer Capriati escaped with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Naoko Sawamatsu. The Japanese player was up 4-3 in the final set, with two game points to go up 5-3, but Capriati broke and won the next two games for the match.

In another women's match, No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini routed Kristin Godridge 6-2, 6-1; Nathalie Zvereva of Belarus upset 13th-seeded Zina Garrison 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, and No. 12 Katerina Maleeva downed France's Julie Halard 6-0, 6-3.

The women's quarterfinal matches are: Seles vs. Tauziat, Navratilova vs. Maleeva, Sabatini vs. Capriati, and Graf vs. Zvereva.

Jordan Table Tennis Championship starts today

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The 1992 Jordan Table Tennis Championship begins Wednesday at the Sports Palace at Al Hussein Youth City, with over 200 players of all ages participating in the event organized by the Jordan Table Tennis Federation.

Participating players include current men's singles titleholder Marwan Diya and Nadya Rashad, who finished second in the Arab Championship, and who will be representing Jordan at the Barcelona Summer Olympics. Mustafa Rida, the junior's champion will also be playing. Abdul Aziz Rida,

winner of the third Arab Table Tennis Championship, held recently in Amman, will be missing this year's competition due to his suspension by the Jordan Table Tennis Federation.

The competition will be played on a knock-out basis, ninety-two players competing in the men's singles will be playing on the first day of competition after being divided to eight groups. Players expected to advance include Marwan Diya, Yousef Asa'd, Adnan Alofi, Ammar Al Kurdi, Wael Mabfouz, Haroun Shaltoni, Mustafa Rida, Hussein Hameid and Rashed Al Sharif.

Rose Bowl selected for World Cup final

LOS ANGELES (R) — The choice of the Rose Bowl to host the 1994 World Cup final was hailed by local officials eager to put the city's hard-hit tourism industry back on track.

"We are delighted," said Michael Collins, spokesman for the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors' Bureau, after the venues for the various rounds of the 24-team soccer championship were announced in Zurich by U.S. World Cup organizers and FIFA, soccer's governing body.

Mr. Collins said the choice of Los Angeles, which was torn by racial unrest last April, served as validation of the city. Being the main host for the soccer extravaganza would be a much-needed boost for tourism, he said.

The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, a Los Angeles suburb, will host eight of the 52 tournament matches including a semifinal, the third-place game and the championship match on July 17.

Collins said the World Cup would generate some \$1 billion in business to Los Angeles. In Chicago, Mayor Richard Daley was among city officials and business leaders who cheered the choice of Soldier Field to host the opening ceremonies for the 1992 tournament.

"This is great news for Chicago to be chosen for the site of the World Cup opening ceremonies," Mr. Daley said.

"We let the organizers know that Chicago is the centre of the Midwest and has the know-how and the spirit to put on the best opening ceremonies the world

has ever seen," he said. The local business community raised \$250,000 to pay for Chicago's proposal to host the opening ceremonies, which is the past has drawn one billion television viewers worldwide — four times more than watched last year's Super Bowl.

"Hosting the World Cup opening ceremonies will be a boost to our national and international image as well as our economy," said Mr. Daley.

Chicago's Soldier Field will be the venue for a first-round game between defending champion Germany and another team in its group on June 17. A second-round match will also be played at the 60,000-seat Lakefront Stadium that is home to the Chicago Bears.

The other big winner in Monday's announcement was Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from New York City, which will host seven matches including a semifinal.

"This is a wonderful source of great pride and a wonderful source of satisfaction," New Jersey Governor Jim Florio said after the announcement from Zurich.

Jay Shaw, executive World Cup venue director for Giants Stadium, was elated and confident that the tournament would be a great success.

"I'll make a 'dollar-for-doughnuts' bet that every ticket will be sold," Mr. Shaw said about fan response to games at the 76,891-seat stadium.

Slaney's Olympic dreams die

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Mary Slaney's Olympic dreams die hard — and slowly.

Slaney, who missed qualifying in the 3,000 last week, finished fourth Sunday in the 1,500 at 4 minutes, 5.43 seconds, to rule out a fourth chance at an Olympic medal.

"I tried, I really tried," a tearful Slaney said after the race. "I really wanted to run in Barcelona."

Slaney made the Olympic team in 1980, 1984 and 1988. She has been to the trials since 1976, but so far all she's collected is heartbreak.

She was sidelined by severe leg pain in 1976, which kept her from qualifying for the Montreal Olympics. In 1980 the U.S. boycott stopped her from competing. In 1984 a collision with Zola Budd in the 3,000 metres sent her crashing to the turf and in 1988 a virus left her weak and among the late finishers.

You can't blame her for feeling jinxed. "But I'll still try again," Slaney said. "If not at the shorter distances, at the longer ones."

The frequently ailing Slaney came to the trials 14 weeks after surgery on her left foot for a partially torn tendon. She had been sidelined for two months prior to that because of the injury. At the trials, Slaney, who

has had 14 operations, developed

an infection. "I just didn't have the kind of lead up to the trial I needed, but I was trying. If I'd just felt better," she said. "I just know I'm on the borderline of being ready to race well."

Slaney, 33, is not on the verge of relinquishing her chase for an Olympic medal, though. If she's unable to compete in the 1,500 and 3,000 in 1996, she will still be able to race she said. She would like to see the 5,000 metres for women added to the Olympic events, but if it isn't, she said she will run the 10,000.

And she feels there is still a chance she can add an Olympic medal to the U.S. records she now has.

"I wouldn't count on it but I think there's a small glimmer of hope," she said. "I still plan to try."

Meanwhile six-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis will compete in only the Long Jump at the Barcelona games, American coaches said Monday.

U.S. head athletics coach Mel Rosen said Lewis had decided not to participate in relay training in France before the Olympics and wanted to give up his spot as an alternate on the 4x100 metre relay team.

Rosen named James Trapp as the replacement for Lewis.

Trapp finished seventh in the 100

metres final at the U.S. Olympic trials. One place behind Lewis.

Lewis failed to qualify for the 100 metres, finishing a stunning sixth at the trials. But coaches had said they would consider the top six finishers for the relay.

Lewis, who also just missed qualifying for the 200 metres, said he did not want to displace any of the top five 100 metres finishers in the 4x100 relay.

In a separate development, suspended sprinter Butch Reynolds will not compete at the Barcelona Olympic Games, despite his inclusion in the U.S. track team.

Istvan Gyulai, secretary general of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), reiterated Monday that Reynolds was ineligible to compete, and criticised his inclusion on the team.

"By the rules of the international federation he is not eligible to compete," Mr. Gyulai said. "According to the Olympic Charter, the eligibility rules of the Olympic Games are determined by the international sport federation."

Mr. Gyulai said track and field's world governing body was "not very happy he was put into the team" as an alternate for the 1,600-metre relay.

Reynolds' fifth-place finish in



Mary Slaney

the U.S. 400-metre trials Friday night in New Orleans qualified him as an alternate for the 1,600-metre relay.

Mr. Gyulai said the Athletics Congress, track's U.S. governing body, should have picked someone else.

Reynolds, the world 400-metre record holder and 1988 Olympic silver medalist, was suspended by the IAAF for two years in August 1990 after testing positive for steroid use. The ban expires two days after the end of the Olympics.

Reynolds said he was innocent, and obtained a U.S. Supreme Court order allowing him to compete at the U.S. track trials in New Orleans.

Possible Swiss pullout could hand 1998 World Cup to France

ZURICH (R) — Morocco hope to be awarded the 1998 World Cup finals this week, but their chances may be undermined by Switzerland who is considering withdrawing their bid.

Morocco, who lost out to the United States by three votes in their bid to stage the 1994 tournament, believe their prospects of beating the two other bidders, France and Switzerland, are stronger this time.

But the Swiss Football Association have scheduled a board meeting Wednesday in Bern to discuss whether to pull out of Thursday's presentation to FIFA. Their bid was undermined by last month's Bastia accident when temporary seating collapsed, killing 15 people and injuring 750.

Swiss hopes of being chosen were heavily based on temporary grandstands. FIFA, soccer's governing body, imposed an indefi-

nite ban on all temporary tubular steel stands after the tragedy at the French Cup semifinal in Bastia on May 5.

Swiss Football Association spokesman Renato Orlando said Wednesday was the earliest they could arrange a meeting between board members and sponsors, who still want to go ahead with the bid.

However, the Swiss interior minister this week suggested they drop their candidacy.

If Switzerland pull out of the contest France's chances of staging the tournament are likely to be enhanced, with any votes which might have gone to the Swiss probably switching to France.

France lost one potential supporter on the executive committee which votes Thursday morning when German Vice-President Hermann Neuburger was ordered

by doctors not to attend because of ill-health.

Without Mr. Neuburger, the Executive Committee consists of nine European and South American members, who often vote together, and nine from the world's other confederations, including three from Africa, FIFA President Joao Havelange has a casting vote.

Scottish executive member David Will expects the decision to be very close.

"It is going to be very open and very difficult to predict a winner. It could go either way. I don't even know who I am going to vote for yet," he said.

"Whatever people may think, we will make our individual decisions after listening to the respective presentations."

Sir Arthur George, a co-opted member from Australia who does not have a vote, believes France are clear favourites.

"In my view, and after talking

with colleagues, there can be only one winner — France," he said Monday.

Morocco's delegation, bidding to bring the World Cup to Africa for the first time, remain confident their presentation will bring them success.

Driss Bamous, president of the Morocco Football Association, was cautious about discussing the outcome, but said: "I feel that we have a better chance than last time."

Moroccan Sports Minister Abdul Latif Semlali, said: "I think our chances are better this time, but it's not possible to say how it will go."

"I see this just like a football match where anything can happen just before the referee's final whistle."

"I do not think the possible exclusion of Switzerland would play a significant role in what amounts to a two-candidate vote."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Canadian Dominion Day has only one aspect Sun sextile Jupiter which doesn't make for a very exciting day. Concentrate on completing the unfinished and making ruffled feathers at home.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into your intimate duties and don't expect them to be solved too easily but have continuity of effort until you have accomplished the right results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have a plan in mind for gaining some cherished longing but you have delays arising that require you pace your time and energy wisely.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some vocational duties of a public nature face you today and you would be wise to consider them from a most conscientious stance to rightly settle.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Many new conditions animate your interest now but you need to make a more thorough study of them before you accept them as part of your existence.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now find that obligations you thought were simple and uncomplicated can have factors that require searching inquiry before solving them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Much conversation with an

associate must be along impersonal lines if you are to come to that meeting of minds you are endeavouring to attain.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to stick to whatever activities are of a usual nature and seek the ways and means by which you can do them in a more efficient fashion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have some creative ideas you now wish to put across and it is good to start them but do so knowing you will have blocks to overcome.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your home life can veer between very pleasant one moment and with complications the next so be prepared for a moody time there.

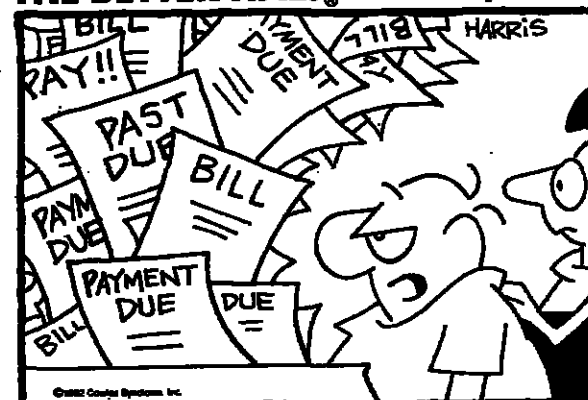
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You start out fine getting communications and messages well handled but later some odd conditions arise which necessitate much thought.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Money matters are of first importance today and it is advisable you realise they will only work to your advantage by using much common sense.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have all sorts of personal aims you want to get done now and that is good but you have to be steadfast and not feel the world is against you.

THE BETTER HALF.

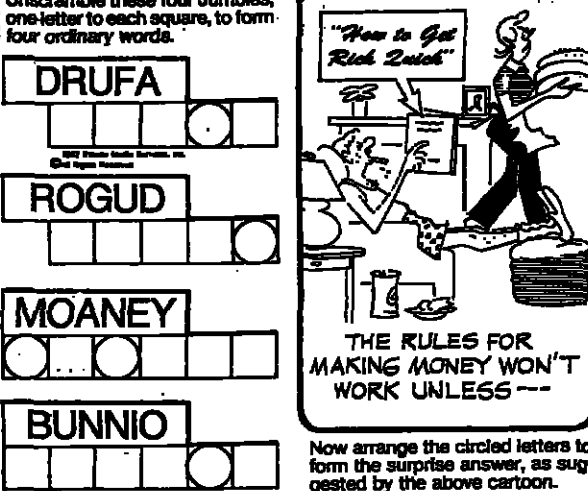
By Harris



"We're so lucky to be living in a world where you can get rich enough to be this poor."

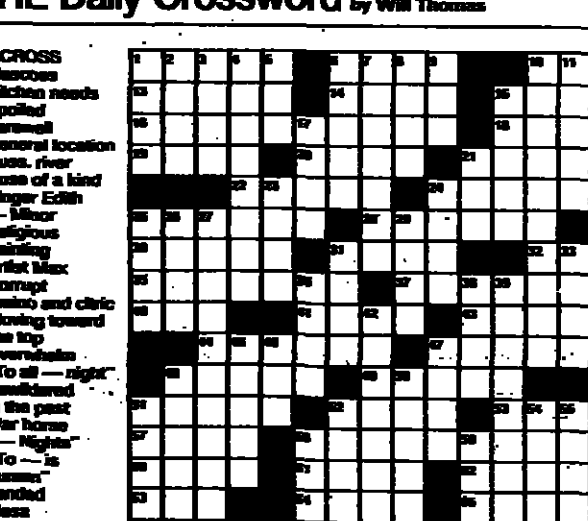
JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: ERASE MOURN RARITY CANDID
Answer: They are the ones who won't forget you when you have no money—CREDITORS

THE Daily Crossword by Will Thomas



ACROSS
1 Flaccid
10 Spilled
13 Farmer
14 General location
15 Room, often
16 Room of a kind
18 Singer Edith
19 Actor
20 Reluctant
21 Artist Alex
22 Camp
24 Amused and chic
25 Moving toward
26 Overlook
27 To all — night
31 Beelzebub
32 In the past
33 After hour
37 Higher
40 To — is
41 Landed
43 Mass
44 Conn. town
47 Swimmer by a rope
48 Home food
49 Halfway
51 Shipwreck
52 East
53 Eng. ship
55 Enamored
58 Exact measure
60 God of war
61 Estimate prof.
62 Relieve
63 Agreeable word
64 Winged
65 Book part
DOWN
1 Thick of the
2 Light passing
3 South of France
4 Activity
5 "Silent City"
6 Winter coat
7 Baltimore team
8 Shave razor
9 Band in the
10 Ball of a kind
11 Fill up
12 Halfway
13 Calendar
14 Childhood
15 Eng. ship
17 Old Fr.
18 coin
19 Diner sign
20 Vagabond
21 Vagabond
22 Wreath
23 Lab
24 Vagabond
25 Electric
26 Shammy or
27 Accasion cover-up
28 Approving word
31 Woody's
33 Portal
34 Day
35 Diner sign
36 Vagabond
37 Vagabond
38 Eng. ship
40 — Paces
45 Scolds
46 CIA's forerunner
47 Shadow section
48 Pierce look
49 Which of —
50 Implore
52 Bargain
54 Whisked circus
55 Observed
56 Gestic
57 Handcuff
58 US collection
59 37

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMAR HIRSCH
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WATCH WHAT HAPPENS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A K 5 4
♥ 9 7
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ 9 7 5
EAST
♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ J 8 5
♣ J 6 3
SOUTH
♠ J 7 2
♥ A J 10 2
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ A 10
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
As declarer at a no-trump contract, when you can't count enough safe winners to get home, run your long suit. You never know what might develop. This hand from the recent Middle East Championship is a case in point.
The auction is an exercise in simple arithmetic. With a balanced minimum opening bid facing a like hand, North made a bidline to the obvious game — three no trump.
West led a club and, assuming diamonds were breaking favorably,

declarer could count eight tricks. There were several chances for a ninth: the queen of spades could drop, or a second heart trick might be developed with the help of a repeat finesse. The drawback with the latter line was the defenders might collect five tricks before declarer gathered in nine.

As a matter of technique declarer, Samir Salim of Egypt, ducked the first round of clubs and won the continuation. With no clear course ahead, declarer elected to cash the diamonds first, taking all four tricks when the suit behaved in a friendly fashion. West had no trouble in discarding a heart on the third diamond. The fourth posed a more difficult problem.

If West pitched a spade, the queen would drop and the jack would be the fulfilling trick. If West sluffed a club, declarer could afford to take two heart finesses, since the defenders would then get only three clubs and a heart. So West let go of another heart.

Reading the hand perfectly, declarer cashed the ace of hearts, stripping West's remaining heart, crossed to the king of spades and then threw West in with a club. West could cash three tricks in that suit, but at the end had to lead away from the queen of spades into declarer's combined A J tenace.

Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



ANC calls for world pressure on De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The African National Congress (ANC), outraged by massacres of blacks, called Tuesday for increased international pressure on Pretoria to act to "stop this slaughter" and speed democracy reforms.

Nelson Mandela's opposition is demanding the South African government install an all-race interim administration to oversee the transition to democracy after 300 years of white domination. "We need action to stop this slaughter. South Africa is in a major crisis," ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus said in a telephone interview.

The ANC was sounding out sports leaders over a possible withdrawal from next month's Barcelona Olympics and other international sporting engagements.

In a sign of growing international awareness of black anger over unrest that has taken 5,000 lives in the past two years, Cameroon called off the first international soccer tour of the republic for 30 years, saying the time was not right.

South African Football Association Secretary General Solomon Morewa said he was stunned by the Cameroon decision, echoing a spreading sense of gloom among sports officials.

ANC officials said the government had promised to respond Friday to their demands for a popularly-elected Constituent Assembly, a transitional government of national unity and action to end township violence.

They said the immediate future of black-white negotiations and consequently the future of South African participation in world sport — hinged on the

government's response. Few expressed optimism.

Mr. Marcus said many countries bore a special responsibility to voteless blacks because they had given white rule new life by approving President F.W. De Klerk's apartheid reforms and lifting economic sanctions, in the ANC's view prematurely.

"We are calling on the international community to put pressure on De Klerk because it was they who gave white government a new lease of life with their approval of his limited reforms," she said.

"But it's not as simple as asking for pressure on De Klerk to resign. That makes it sound too blunt. We object to the totality of what this government stands for and demand that it agree to install an interim government."

"The international community can put pressure on the regime for an interim government and for international monitors to study the actions of the police."

The ANC pulled out of multi-party reform talks called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) last week in protest at the killing of at least 42 people in Boipatong township south of Johannesburg on June 17.

The ANC said the worst mass killing of the apartheid reform era was carried out by members of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party backed by police. Inkatha and the police denied any role.

The officer in charge of a police unit alleged to have carried out the Boipatong massacre denied any involvement Monday.

Sergeant Jacob Taljaart, giving evidence to an independent judicial inquiry into the allegations, said: "I deny them strenuously."

The massacre led to a breakdown in talks between the white-minority government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress.

Taljaart was in charge of a group of 40 black ex-soldiers from Namibia now helping South African police track stock thieves and common criminals who were temporarily based at a greenfield coal mine in the eastern Transvaal this month.

A mine security guard who is a member of the African National Congress, Mandla Mgomozulu, told the inquiry Friday one of the ex-soldiers had confessed to him that the unit had carried out the Boipatong massacre on June 17.

The ex-soldier, Jeremiah Sekongo, denied having made the confession.

Mr. Mgomozulu also said members of the unit went out every night while they were based at the mine and some carried weapons hidden in blankets.

Sgt. Taljaart told the inquiry the unit was unarmed, except for eight automatic rifles used by the white police officers in charge. "We have no secrets," he said.

The inquiry into the unit began last week following a tip-off that a group of men at the mine was involved in a township violence in Boipatong and surrounding areas.

It adjourned Monday until Thursday, when a broader investigation by Judge Richard Goldstone's commission into the Boipatong massacre is due to start.

Police say they have a confession from one of six residents of a nearby migrant worker hostel that he was involved in the raid.

100 rebels killed in Sri Lanka battle

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops Monday consolidated areas captured from Tamil rebels in an offensive that has killed 100 rebels and 14 soldiers, military officials and news reports said.

"We are consolidating our positions. There is no advance at the moment," a military spokesman said after the air, sea and ground operation.

He said that since the offensive began Sunday, troops had advanced three kilometres into rebel-held land from a beach-head in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The military confirmed the deaths of 60 rebels and 14 soldiers in the battle but Lankapuwath, Sri Lanka's national news agency, said 100 rebels were killed in two days of fighting.

The army is fighting the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas who control much of the peninsula.

Travelers from Jaffna said a civilian was killed near Vetti-

laikerni Sunday when a plane bombed a rebel jeep.

"The man died when one of the bombs fell on a tree where he was hiding," said a trader who saw the bombs fall. "A rebel inside the jeep jumped out but was killed as he ran."

Warplanes and a helicopter also circled two tractors filled with civilians as they crossed a drier-up lagoon near Vetti-laikerni, he said.

Women screamed expecting the tractors to be attacked but that did not happen," he said. Residents said only 150 people, mostly women, reached the army-controlled northern town of Vavuniya Monday, compared to the daily average of 5,000 arriving from the peninsula.

"Things are hotting up there and the Tigers are not allowing people — mainly young men — to leave," one resident said.

The military spokesman declined to comment on the aim of the offensive except to say that it was to "destroy as many rebels as possible and deplete their cadres."

Ground troops met little resistance compared to pitched battles in the same area last year, officials said.

At that time, more than 8,000 troops fought their way to Elephant Pass from Vetti-laikerni, seven kilometres to the west, to rescue 200 soldiers whose camp had been under a month-long rebel siege.

Elephant Pass is a causeway linking the peninsula to the rest of the island.

Military experts said that was one of the biggest battles in the civil war. A total of 2,000 people were killed.

The Tigers have fought since 1983 for a separate homeland for minority Tamils. More than 20,000 people have been killed as a result of the revolt.

Sihanoukist faction begins to disarm

SOENG CANTONMENT SITE, Cambodia (R) — More than 2,000 soldiers of Cambodia's royalist faction Tuesday signed their U.N. papers, handed in their weapons and took their first steps towards resuming civilian life after more than a dozen years of conflict.

"Vive la paix eternelle," (long live eternal peace) shouted their commander, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The mass disarming of the guerrillas, who fought to put Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Ranariddh's father, back in power in Phnom Penh, was in line with the Paris peace agreement signed by all four Cambodian factions last October.

Their National Army of Independent Kampuchea (ANKI) is believed to comprise 6,000 guerrillas.

A delighted head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Japanese diplomat Yasushi Akashi, warm-

ly applauded the cooperation of Sihanoukists in a phase of the peace process being ignored by their one-time allies the Khmer Rouge.

"It has been the dream of prophets for many centuries to change swords into ploughshares," he said.

"And we are witnessing today the historical transformation of Cambodia, which has suffered from so many years of war and conflict, to now take a courageous step towards peace and peaceful civilian life," he told the soldiers.

Phase two of the peace process calls for 200,000 fighters from all four factions to be temporarily housed, disarmed and demobilised.

The Khmer Rouge are balking, saying there are still Vietnamese soldiers in the country, a charge the U.N. denies.

U.N.-organised elections, scheduled for May 1993, will not take place until all four armies

are disarmed, Mr. Akashi said. Prince Ranariddh said there were some encouraging signs that the radically leftist Khmer Rouge, who put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that cost a million lives, might soon participate.

In Paris, a senior French official said the Khmer Rouge were expected to give their response to U.N. demands that they start regrouping and disarming their forces at a meeting in Phnom Penh Thursday.

French Junior Foreign Minister George Kiejman said he was optimistic, citing the presence of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Sampan at a Tokyo conference last week on reconstruction in Cambodia.

"If they refused to implement the Paris peace accords, the Khmer Rouge would run the risk of growing isolation. It will be up to the United Nations to take the necessary measures," he said.

The reality of the Quebec referendum is upon us," Ontario Premier Bob Rae warned at a news conference.

"If we do not reach agreement, Boushara will put any fuzzy-wuzzy question to the people of Quebec ... they have to decide whether they want to be citizens of Canada or not," he said.

Quebec refused to sign Canada's constitution when it was patriated from Britain in 1982 because it wanted special powers to defend its cultural heritage and distinct society.

A previous attempt to solve the constitutional crisis threatening Canada's unity known as the Meech Lake Accord collapsed in 1990.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Estonians favour new constitution

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Estonians have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new constitution that will completely change the system of government established during 50 years of Soviet rule, election officials said. Preliminary results showed 93 per cent of the voters in Sunday's referendum cast "yes" ballots. At the same time, they voted against extending voting rights to Russian speakers living in Estonia. The affirmative vote on the constitution makes Estonia the first former Soviet republic to adopt a constitution since the disintegration of the Soviet Union last year. Drafted in the months after the attempted Kremlin coup in August, the new constitution will establish a parliamentary system with a strong presidency. Elections for the 101-member parliament, to be called the Riigikogu, are to be held before Sept. 27. The first president will be directly elected by voters. Thereafter, according to the new constitution, the parliament will choose the president.

Baboon liver transplanted into man

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A dying man whose liver was destroyed by Hepatitis B is doing well the day after receiving a baboon liver in the world's first such transplant, doctors said. The 35-year-old man, whose name was withheld at his request, was in critical condition today after Sunday's 11-hour operation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre. "The patient is awake. He is able to respond to simple commands and the liver seems to be functioning," transplant surgeon Dr. Andreas Tsakis said at a news conference today. Dr. Tsakis said the patient squeezed a doctor's finger and has indicated he understands statements made to him. He is on a respirator. "I think this man is a great hero. He's a very brave person. He was a very positive attitude, and he had no hesitation in going forward," said Dr. Thomas Starzl, director of the Transplantation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre. "What we hope for and, to be quite honest, expect, is that he will be restored," he said.

Russia closes oldest nuclear reactor

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's oldest nuclear reactor producing plutonium for military purposes was shut down Tuesday amid calls for the closure of all 16 Chernobyl-type reactors. ITAR-TASS News Agency said the reactor was one of three at a power station at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia, built along the same lines as the stricken Chernobyl complex in Ukraine where the world's worst nuclear accident took place six years ago. A second reactor at the Krasnoyarsk plant will be closed before the end of the year, TASS said. The reactor at Krasnoyarsk will be thoroughly sealed to control discharge of radioactive material. TASS said it would take five years to complete the sealing process. Engineers and experts will study the reactors during that time to examine what happens to metallic constructions exposed to neutron radiation. The research will help experts working at Russia's other RBMK reactors, TASS added.

Ship sinks in Indonesia; 69 missing

JAKARTA (R) — Sixty-nine people are missing after an Indonesian ship with 206 passengers and crew capsized off the resort island of Bali, a rescue official said Tuesday. A Taiwanese fishing vessel rescued 137 people after the Lombok Utama foundered Sunday while on its way to Indonesia's Kalimantan province, the official said quoting delayed reports. Rescuers were still searching for the missing, the official said. He gave no further details.

U.S. quakes cause \$16 m in damage

LOS ANGELES (R) — The powerful twin earthquakes that jolted southern California Sunday caused at least \$16 million worth of damage, authorities said. The San Bernardino County Office of Public Safety said in a statement that more than 1,000 homes and 33 businesses were damaged while 20 homes and 10 businesses were totally destroyed. The quakes, the first of which was the biggest to hit the United States in 40 years, killed a 3½-year-old boy crushed by a falling chimney and injured more than 200 people, authorities said. The damage and injuries were concentrated in the small California desert and mountain communities east of Los Angeles, including Yuca Valley, Joshua Tree, Big Bear and Landers. A third, smaller quake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale shook the Nevada-California border early Monday 120 kilometres northwest of Las Vegas in an area which is mostly desert. There were no reports of casualties or damage, according to Rebecca Phipps of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Astronauts focus on health tests

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Astronauts aboard the shuttle Columbia tested health equipment for a proposed space station Monday and considered repairs to an experimental machine that scrubs toxic chemicals from their breathing air. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said the crew continued to fare well despite minor technical problems that persisted into the fifth day of the marathon 13-day scientific mission. "It's been very smooth," said James Hartsfield, a spokesman at mission control in Houston. Columbia is making the first in a series of flights aimed at preparing astronauts for lengthy visits to the proposed space station, Freedom. The seven astronauts are trying to set a 13-day endurance record for the longest U.S. manned mission since the Skylab space laboratory orbited the planet in 1974. The five men and two women, working in 12-hour shifts, focused much of their attention Monday on medical tests for the space station. "The overall objective of the project is to protect crew health and safety during long shuttle missions ... now that we have the capability," said Jerry Berg, a NASA spokesman.

Clinton gains, Perot slips, making race a dead heat

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrat Bill Clinton has picked up ground with voters while Ross Perot has slipped, transforming the presidential race into a three-way tie with President George Bush, a new poll found.

The ABC-News-Washington Post poll gave Mr. Clinton 33 per cent of the vote to 30 per cent for likely independent contender Perot, and 29 per cent for the incumbent Republican president if the Nov. 3 presidential election were held today.

The margin of error for the poll of 1,007 adults taken on June 24-28 was 3.5 percentage points, putting the three candidates in a virtual dead heat statistically.

The survey results, if confirmed in later polls, are likely to rock all three campaigns:

— Mr. Clinton has confounded the experts, climbing from obscurity in third place into a leading position over his two rivals.

— Mr. Bush, a sitting president who finds himself in third place in a three-man race, has ample new evidence that his reelection campaign is in deep, deep trouble.

— Mr. Perot is confronted with the possibility that his candidacy has already peaked following an astronomical rise unprecedented

in modern U.S. political history. Asked about the poll, Bush campaign spokeswoman Torrie Clark said, "the poll that counts won't be until November and the results will be significantly different."

Similarly, Clinton spokeswoman Mar Parker said polls are "merely a snapshot. Obviously we're pleased with this snapshot but our campaign is not driven by polls," Ms. Parker said.

Since the last ABC-Washington Post poll released on June 7, Mr. Perot — who has come under harsh attack from senior Bush administration officials — has slipped eight points while Mr. Clinton gained seven points and Mr. Bush fell a point.

Mr. Perot, who has yet to declare his candidacy officially, last week accused Mr. Bush of personally directing a Hitler-like propaganda assault against him, a charge denied by Mr. Bush, White House and campaign aides.

Mr. Bush's strategy of raising questions about Mr. Perot's fitness for the presidency yielded mixed results. Mr. Perot lost support primarily among Democrats and held steady among Republicans and independents, while Mr. Bush lost ground with indepen-

Ramos becomes Philippine president

MANILA (R) — General Fidel Ramos launched his presidency Tuesday with a pledge to turn the Philippines' "plodding society into a tiger," but rebel soldiers greeted his inauguration by bombing banks and a railway station.

In ceremonies marking the country's first peaceful transfer of power in 26 years, the West Point-trained former defence chief urged the South East Asian nation to end its armed conflicts and unite to catch up with its prosperous neighbours.

He called on right-wing army rebels and Communist guerrillas to lay down their arms, offering them an amnesty programme.

"Let us begin by telling ourselves the truth. Our nation is in trouble and there are no easy answers, no quick fix for our basic ills," Gen. Ramos said in his inaugural address.

"Once we were the spur of South East Asia. Today, our neighbours, one by one, have passed us by," he stated.

But he warned "Things could get worse before they get better."

"But I am not daunted," the 64-year-old son of a former diplomat said. "Crisis has a cleansing fire which ... can transform a plodding society into a tiger."

Ten thousand policemen and two battalions of army riot troops guarded the ceremony at a Manila park while snipers stood on rooftops as Corason Aquino relinquished her powers to her loyal general who defended her against six army coup attempts.

Hours before Gen. Ramos was sworn in, suspected rebel soldiers bombed three Manila banks and a railway station, but there were no reports of injuries and no group claimed responsibility.

"Let us all lay to rest our enmities and our conflicts," Gen. Ramos said. "Either we rise together — above our self-centred bickering and factional quarrels — or we fall into the pits we have dug for one another."

He promised swift and decisive political and economic reforms to put the country back on track and tackle its deep-rooted problems.

"We shall have to resort to remedies close to surgery," he declared.

Gen. Ramos said his economic policies would be geared towards increasing production, finding



Fidel Ramos

jobs for millions of unemployed, dismantling protectionist barriers and easing state restrictions on business.

At the swearing-in ceremony, cabinet members, senators, business leaders and heads of foreign delegations fanned themselves amid and humid summer heat following a tropical downpour just before the inaugural parade.

Guests included several foreign ministers from neighbouring South East Asian countries and Australia. Japan, the country's biggest aid donor, sent former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, but the United States sent a low level team headed by Elaine Chao, head of the Peace Corps volunteers.

Gen. Ramos, the first Protestant leader of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation Tuesday urged the church to steer clear of politics.

Gen. Ramos faces a potentially difficult relationship with the powerful Roman Catholic clergy, particularly over the sensitive issue of birth control.

In his inaugural speech, the 64-year-old former armed forces chief said recent elections showed Filipinos wanted a separation between church and state.

In an indirect swipe at Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin, who had opposed his election bid, Gen. Ramos said voters "reaffirmed their adherence to the secular ideal — of church and state separate but collaborating, co-existent but each supreme in its own domain."

Cardinal Sin, influential prelate in Asia's only Roman Catholic country, said the church would cooperate with Gen. Ramos but that this was not unconditional. He hinted at areas of disagreement.

"When the laws are against the laws of God, then naturally how can you cooperate?" he said to reporters Monday.

Major promises cool hand on EC presidency

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, who takes over the European Community presidency Wednesday, promised a cool, calm hand on European affairs.

"The plain fact is that the future of Europe is at stake and in needs to be addressed with coolness, commitment and with careful calculation," Mr. Major told parliament Monday.

Speaking on the weekend EC summit in Lisbon, Mr. Major said Europe faced huge challenges in its progress towards unity, in freeing world trade and in dealing with the Yugoslav crisis.

"Many difficult matters must be resolved in the months ahead," he said of the six-month British EC presidency.

Mr. Major said the summit made progress in curbing budgetary expansion in the Community and preparing for negotiations to admit European Free Trade Association members Austria,

Finland, Sweden and Switzerland.

He said all 12 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Maastricht Treaty on European union, jolted when Danish voters rejected the pact in a referendum this month.

Mr. Major himself must confront an influential section of his own party which sees the treaty as a step towards a United States of Europe. Buoyed by the Danish vote, they argue the Maastricht Treaty is dead.

Mr. Major warned his EC colleagues Friday that they had to ally fears that the Community was a voracious monster.

He stressed this again Monday, saying he would use the British presidency to try and flesh out what the Community meant by subsidiarity — the principle that nothing should be done at Community level which could be done better at local or national level.

It is wrong for any company to issue records that approve of killing law enforcement officers," he said.

Earlier this month, Mr. Quayle condemned the lyrics in "Cop Killer," which at one point talks about having a 12-gauge shotgun as the performer declares, "I'm about to dust some cops off."

Since the initial criticism of the album, produced by the record division of Time-Warner, the record has had sales over 300,000.

Lead-T defended the lyrics as reflecting a character who is fed up with police brutality. Time-Warner has said it has no intention of honouring a call by some police groups to stop selling the record.

In the address to several hundred law enforcement officials, Mr. Bush hammered away at a law and order theme, saying he objected when the work of "good cops" was lost because the criminals "go free because of some exclusionary rule technicality."

COLUMN 1000000

Universe calculated at least 15 billion years old

CAGLIARI, Sardinia (R) — The Universe is at least 15 billion years old and is still expanding, according to evidence from the Hubble space telescope, a scientific convention heard. "The 'big bang' is still going on and we do not know when it will end," said Professor Piero Benvenuti, European scientific representative of the Hubble telescope project. He was introducing a week-long conference "science with the Hubble space telescope" in China, outside Cagliari. The \$2.1 billion telescope, designed for the U.S. space agency NASA in the 1970s, was launched in April 1990 to allow astronomers to view space from outside the confines of the Earth's atmosphere. The conference heard that readings from the telescope had allowed an international team of astronomers to take a major first step in redetermining the expansion rate of the universe. Previous calculations of this rate, which helps to determine the size and age of the universe, have varied widely. But by using the space telescope to study the brightness of a faint galaxy 16 million light-years away, scientists have managed to come up with more precise figures.

China approves naming of living Buddha

PEKING (AP) — An 8-year-old Tibetan boy has become the first living Buddha to win the stamp of approval of China's Communist government, a religious official said. In Tibetan Buddhism, a living Buddha is a person who is holy enough to enter nirvana after death, but chooses to be reincarnated over and over to help others. The China Daily said the boy was chosen as the 17th reincarnation of the living Buddha of Karma Bkav Rgyud, an important branch of Tibetan Buddhism. He was selected at a monastery 70 kilometres from the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, it said. Zhao Jizheng of the State Religious Affairs Bureau said it was the first time the Communist government had approved designating someone a living Buddha. Some monasteries have selected living Buddhas on their own, but Mr. Zhao said this is illegal. "According to tradition, high-ranking living Buddhas need central government approval," Mr. Zhao said. "This tradition goes back to the Ming and Qing dynasties," the last two dynasties of the Chinese empire.

Canada's largest symphony may file for bankruptcy

TORONTO (R) — The strains of a funeral dirge may ring out for Canada's largest orchestra. The 101-member Toronto Symphony Orchestra plans to file for bankruptcy protection despite its members' acceptance of a more than 15 per cent cut in salary. The orchestra will post a Canadian dollar 3.7 million (\$3.1 million) deficit by its Aug. 31 year end, which corresponds to the end of the players' contract, a spokesman said. Management told orchestra members it could not stay afloat unless they accepted a new three-year contract which includes a cut in the 1992-93 season to 42 weeks from 50 weeks. The cut would translate to a 15.3 per cent slash in the players' current Canadian dollar 57,000 (\$47,738) yearly base salary. Ronald Hurwitz, chairman of the Players' Negotiating Committee, said the most recent proposal from members differed from management's only in the cuts considered acceptable for years two and three.

Hunter given go ahead to shoot dangerous lion

HELSINKI (R) — The Finnish government says a dangerous lion is prowling sub-Arctic forests, close to the border with Russia, and has given a hunter permission to shoot it. According to rumours in the Ruokolahti district, near the frontier, a lion or other big cat escaped from a circus in Russia recently and slipped across the border. One local man said he had seen it and pictures of a pug mark have appeared in the media. The government has taken the report seriously. "It was decided on the basis of expert statements that the lion is a threat to public security," said the Agriculture Ministry. The ministry statement said hunter Erik Nyholm had been licensed to track down the animal and shoot it.